DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Women's WC: Solid India drub Pak by 88 runs

Kranti, Deepti shine with the ball after Harleen and Richa provide competitive total

Page 12

1 Following a no-handshake policy of Indian men's cricket team with Pakistani cricketers, women's captain Harmanpreet Kaur too refrained from shaking hands with her Pak counterpart Fatima Sana at the toss.

2 The toss procedure itself became controversial after match referee Shandre Fritz misheard Sana's call of 'tails' as 'heads' and declared spin of coin in Pak captain's favour.

3 After being put into bat first in overcast conditions, most Indian batters got starts but couldn't convert into big knocks.

4 Besides tricky batting conditions, Indian batters were also inconvenienced by a swarm of bugs under lights, stopping the play for 15 minutes.

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Government of Karnataka

Backward Classes Welfare Department
And
Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board,
Kalaburagi

Shri D.K.Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Shri Mallikarjun Kharge
Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, Rajya Sabha.

Government of Karnataka and KKRDB
Unveil Major Development Initiatives
Valued at ₹1,128 Crore.

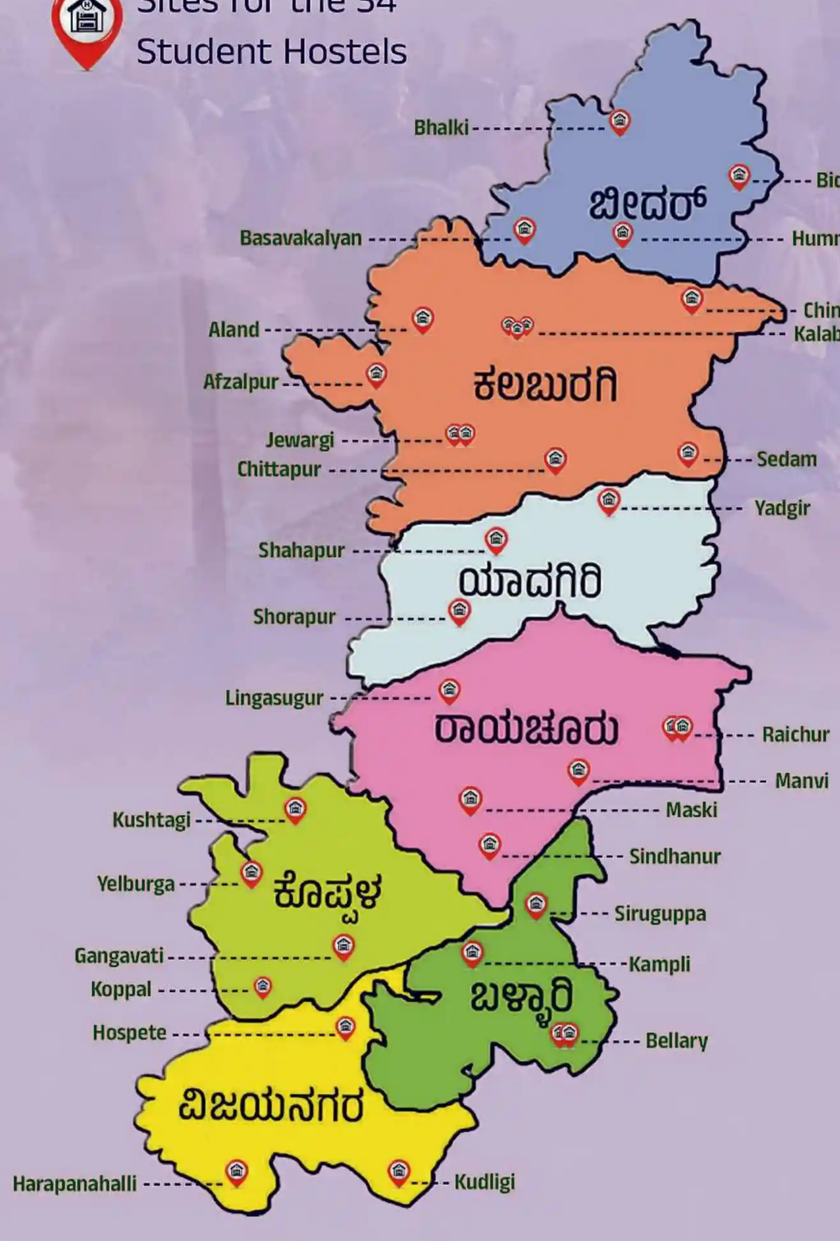
Date: 06-10-2025, Monday | Time: 11 AM
Venue: Agadi Layout, Hospet Road, Koppal

Hostel Development Projects worth ₹306 crore have been initiated in collaboration with KKRDB and the Backward Classes Welfare Department.

- Foundation laying for 34 hostels
- Approval for 20 new hostels with essential facilities

Hon. Minister for Planning, Programme Monitoring & Statistics Shri D. Sudhakar, Hon. Minister for Backward Classes Welfare Department Shri Shivaraj S. Tangadagi, and Hon. Chairman KKRDB Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh during the official review meeting on developmental initiatives in the Kalyana Karnataka Region.

Sites for the 34 Student Hostels



Extending Our Heartfelt Welcome To Everyone.

Development Initiatives in Koppal Backed by KKRDB Grants

- Akshara Aavishkara INR 189.52 Crores
- Aarogya Aavishkara INR 319.26 Crores
- Udyoga Aavishkara INR 120 Crores
- Kalyana Patha INR 121.55 Crores
- Upliftment of Backward Classes INR 18 Crores
- Upliftment of Minorities INR 6.375 Crores
- Upliftment of SC/ST INR 66 Crores
- Construction of Praja Soudhas INR 45 .75 Crores

Small clue, big breakthrough: How a phone charger led to Pahalgam arrest

Partially damaged Android charger proved to be crucial evidence

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

A simple phone charger turned out to be the crucial clue that helped the Jammu and Kashmir Police track down and arrest a man accused of aiding the terrorists behind the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 people dead, sources said.

The accused, Mohammad Yousuf Katari (26), a school-teacher from Kulgam, was arrested in September after investigators established his links with the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and his role as an overground worker (OGW) who provided logistical support to the terrorists involved in the massacre.

Sources said Katari was zeroed in on after an analysis of equipment and weapons recovered from the LeT terrorists killed during Operation Mahadev, a counter-terror operation launched on May 22 after intelligence inputs about militant presence in the Dachigam area near Srinagar.

The operation, which lasted several weeks, culminated in the killing of three foreign terrorists — Sulieman alias Asif, Jibran and Hamza Afghani — including the mastermind of the Pahalgam attack. From their hideout in the foothills of the Zabarwan Range, security forces recovered AK-47 and M9 assault rifles, later sent to a forensic laboratory in Chandigarh. The ballistic analysis confirmed that the weapons had been used in the Pahalgam killings.

Amid the debris of the encounter site, investigators recovered a partially damaged Android charger — a small piece of evidence that would prove decisive, sources said. Forensic experts traced the charger's serial number through the manufacturing and purchase trail, which led to a Srinagar-based mobile dealer.

From there, the trail wound its way to Katari, who had allegedly purchased and later provided it to the terrorists during one of their meetings in the Zabarwan hills.

Police said Katari had met the trio on at least four occasions, providing supplies, guidance through forest routes and technical support, including the charger that eventually linked him to the network.

Investigators believe Katari was part of a local support module of the LeT, operating in south Kashmir's Kulgam and extending assistance to groups hiding in central Kashmir's forests. His arrest, officials said, has given police vital leads into the logistics chain that helped foreign militants move and operate across districts.

"The arrest shows how minute forensic evidence, when pursued systematically, can unravel an entire terror support network," a senior officer said.

Katari remains in custody as police continue to investigate the wider LeT network involved in the Pahalgam attack, an assault that shook the valley's fragile sense of security and left a deep scar on the region's tourism sector.

Navy to commission new anti-submarine craft today

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Indian Navy will commission a new anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft on Monday that is expected to bolster its overall combat prowess.

The vessel, Androth, will be inducted into the navy at a ceremony in Visakhapatnam.

"The commissioning of Androth marks yet another milestone in the Indian Navy's steady stride towards capability enhancement and indigenisation," the navy said.

"The induction is part of a larger momentum that has seen several state-of-the-art warships join the naval fleet in recent months," it said.

Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, Androth has over 80% indigenous content.

The ship underscores the Navy's commitment to enhancing indigenous capability through innovative technologies and homegrown solutions, the navy said.

"The commissioning of Androth will significantly bolster the Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities, especially in countering threats in littoral waters," it said in a statement.

"It reflects the Navy's sustained emphasis on indigenisation, innovation, and capability enhancement, while also highlighting the vital role of GRSE in strengthening India's maritime security architecture," the navy said.

J&K teachers warned against criticising govt policies

SRINAGAR, PTI: The chief education officer (CEO) of Baramulla in Jammu and Kashmir directed teaching and non-teaching staff employed under the department to refrain from criticising government policies on social media, warning them of punitive action, including dismissal from service.

In a circular on Saturday, he directed all the employees of the school education department of the district to strictly adhere to the guidelines and refrain from "indulging in unwarranted debates and discussions and avoid sharing, commenting, or posting inappropriate content on social media platforms".

Pulwama MLA and PDP leader Waheed Para slammed the order, saying it stops people from "raising their voices".

The Baramulla CEO said various instances of misuse of social media platforms by teaching and non-teaching staff were discussed at a meeting chaired by the education department administrative secretary on Friday.

He said such acts as interference in the policy matters of the department.

The circular, however, mentioned that the employees are not barred from using social media and they can use these platforms for "positive and constructive purposes".

BRO builds world's highest motorable road in Ladakh

SRINAGAR, DHNS: The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has achieved a new milestone by constructing the world's highest motorable road at Mig La Pass in eastern Ladakh, situated at an altitude of 19,400 feet.

The feat surpasses the BRO's own previous record at Umling La (19,024 feet) and marks another breakthrough in India's high-altitude infrastructure drive.

Built under Project Himank, the newly completed Likaru–Mig La–Fukche road strengthens India's defence preparedness and opens new opportunities for adventure tourism. The road provides a crucial third axis from Hanle to Fukche, significantly enhancing mobility for troops and civilians in one of the most remote and strategically sensitive regions of the country.

"It ensures year-round connectivity in terrain that was once thought to be impassable," said a BRO official.

Over the past five years, India has launched a massive push to upgrade roads, bridges, tunnels, and airstrips across its border belt.

Respect red lines: India on trade deal with US

Jaishankar says efforts underway to address issues

NEW DELHI, PTI

Any trade deal between India and the US has to respect New Delhi's "red lines" and efforts are underway to find a "landing ground", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday amid strain in ties between the two countries over Washington's policy on tariff.

S Jaishankar

In an interactive session at an event, Jaishankar acknowledged having issues between India and the US and that many of them are linked to the inability to firm up the proposed trade deal.

The external affairs minister said an understanding on trade between the two sides was necessary as the US is the world's largest market but at the same time noted that India's red lines should be respected.

"We have today issues with the United States. A big part of it is the fact that we have not arrived at a landing ground for our trade discussions, and the inability so far to reach there has led to a certain tariff being levied on India," he said.

Jaishankar was speaking at the discussion on the theme 'Shaping Foreign Policy in Turbulent Times' at the Kautilya Economic Enclave.

"In addition, there is a second tariff which we have publicly said we regard as very unfair, which has picked on us for sourcing energy from Russia when there are other countries that have done so, including countries that right now have a far more antagonistic relationship with Russia than we do," he said.

The relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe stress after Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50%, including an additional 25% duty for India's purchase of Russian crude oil.

"Whatever happens at the end of the day, there has got to be a trade understanding with the US...because it is the world's largest market but also because much of the world has reached those understandings," Jaishankar said.

"But it has to be an understanding where our bottom lines, our red lines are respected. In any agreement, there are things you can negotiate and there are things you can't," he said.

Jaishankar said India is pretty clear about its approach. "We have to find that landing ground and that's been the conversation which has been going on since March," he said.

MEGA WARGAME

The navies of India and the United Kingdom commenced an eight-day Exercise Konkan in the Western Indian Ocean on Sunday, in line with their focus to boost overall military ties. While the UK's Carrier Strike Group (CSG), led by HMS Prince of Wales aircraft carrier, has been deployed for the exercise, the Indian Navy has deployed the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. PTI

Cong alleges targeted removal of 23 lakh women voters in Bihar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress on Sunday claimed that the names of around 23 lakh women voters in 59 Assembly seats where a "close contest" took place in the 2020 polls were deleted from electoral rolls prepared after the contentious SIR.

Alleging it to be a "well-planned" conspiracy, the Congress also wondered why the BJP and its women's wing are "silent" when a large number of women, particularly Dalit and Muslim women who "would not vote for BJP and NDA" were targeted, and it raises "huge suspicion".

Addressing a press conference, Mahila Congress president Alka Lamba stated that the deleted women voters account for 6.28% of the 3.5 crore women electors, and an analysis would reveal that deletions occurred on a massive scale in six districts. She demanded legal action against those involved in systematic voter suppression.

Bihar electoral roll 'purified' after 22 years: CEC

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Sunday said that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar "purified" the voters' list after 22 years, and many initiatives are being undertaken for the upcoming Assembly polls, which will be replicated across the country in due course.

Kumar, accompanied by Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, addressed a press conference before winding up a two-day tour of the state, where he received feedback from representatives of political parties and discussed poll preparedness.

"With the successful completion of SIR, the voters' list in Bihar has been purified. It is after a gap of 22 years that such a cleansing has taken place. The exercise will now be conducted across the country."

He evaded queries related to issues raised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi regarding 'ghuspaithiya' (infiltrators) and 'vote theft', respectively. However, he expressed full satisfaction with the way the list was 'purified' by removing bogus voters.

VOTER PURGE

- The election process in Bihar will be completed before November 22, when the term of the current Assembly ends
- The names of 65 lakh voters had been struck off prior to publication of the draft roll in August.
- Another 3.66L names were removed during the month-long period of claims and objections that followed.

"This 'purification' was necessary, as it reduced the number of genuine voters from 7.89 crore to 7.42 crore. Anyone not eligible to vote has been struck off the list, and those eligible have been added to the electoral roll," said the CEC. He was responding to a query about how Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have repeatedly raised concerns during their visits to Bihar about infiltrators participating in the voting process.

He asked Bihar's Chief Electoral Officer Vinod Gunjyal to investigate claims, including the allegation that over 100 people from a particular community were added at one booth in Muzaffarpur. Earlier, a Congress delegation that met the CEC had also highlighted the presence of about 247 voters registered at a single house in Jamui.

"There are many such voters who do not have a house. So, we allot the house number of their next-door neighbour. As a result, there is a possibility that one house may have many voters," Kumar said.

'Aadhaar solely for identification'

Regarding the Supreme Court's directive on Aadhaar as one of 12 ID documents, the CEC emphasised that Aadhaar is solely for identification and is not proof of date of birth, address or citizenship.

(*With PTI inputs*)

Two, including ex-journalist, held for extortion in Jaipur

JAIPUR, PTI: Two people, including a former journalist, have been arrested in connection with a blackmail and extortion racket, police said.

The action was taken against Ram Singh Rajawat and Jitendra Sharma, previously associated with *Zee Rajasthan* news channel as a reporter and state business head. The management had lodged a police complaint last month against its then regional head, Ashish Dave, and others for cheating, criminal breach of trust and criminal misconduct.

A police officer said the investigation revealed that Rajawat and Sharma operated under Dave's instructions, broadcasting negative news reports against businesspersons to coerce them into paying money.

During an internal inquiry, Sharma was caught on a CCTV camera allegedly fleeing with Rs 5 lakh.

The Jaipur police is expected to submit its report on Monday. Meanwhile, police sources said the accused filed over 100 negative stories in three months as part of the extortion scheme.

Hagrama Mohilary sworn in as chief of Bodoland Council

KOKRAJHAR (ASSAM), PTI: BPF president Hagrama Mohilary was sworn in as the Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) in Assam's Kokrajhar district on Sunday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Bodoland People's Front (BPF) president Hagrama Mohilary on being sworn in as the CEM of BTC.

"The central government and Assam government will continue to support the BTC government as we all collectively work to fulfil the great Bodofa Upendranath Brahma's vision and ensure all-round development", the PM posted on X.

Mohilary, who became the CEM for the fourth time, took the oath of office and secrecy, administered by Chief Secretary Ravi Kota.

The BPF swept the BTC polls, winning 28 of the 40 seats. The United Peoples Party Liberal and the BJP, alliance partners in the outgoing BTC, finished with seven and five seats respectively.

NDA's welfare pitch in Bihar heats up

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

NITISH'S ANNOUNCEMENTS IN LAST 5 MONTHS

- Rs 10,000 for women to start small businesses; 75 lakh women expected to benefit
- Increased pension for the elderly, disabled, and widows from Rs 400 to Rs 1,000; to benefit around 1.13 crore
- 125 units of free electricity; to benefit 1.89 crore families
- Rs 1,000 per month to unemployed graduates for 2 years
- ST Vikas Mitras to get a one-time Rs 25,000 allowance to purchase tablets

The NDA in Bihar appears to be following the successful Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh playbook as it announces schemes targeted especially at women and youth, instilling some worries in the Opposition camp ahead of the Assembly polls.

With the I.N.D.I.A bloc's "Voter Adhikar Yatra" creating ripples in the state, the JD(U)-BJP combine has accelerated the announcement of schemes targeted at specific voter groups, like a promised unemployment allowance or for setting up small-scale industries.

It also comes close on the heels of the I.N.D.I.A bloc announcing a 10-point promise for the Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs), which includes land for the landless, earmarking half of the reserved seats in private schools for SC/ST/OBC/EBCs, and quota in private institutions.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has announced Rs 10,000 for women to start small-scale businesses, increased pension amounts, free electricity, and unemployment allowances, among others the past four-five months, with money already transferred in some cases.

"There is an impropriety in governments announcing such schemes with elections just in sight. It gives ruling parties an undue advantage. It is brazen, objectionable," political analyst Rasheed Kidwai told *DH*.

He also warned that such inducements might not always work, as one saw with the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress in Rajasthan, the K Chandrashekar Rao-led BRS in Telangana, and the Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSR Congress in Andhra Pradesh.

The Opposition camp is closely watching the JD(U)-BJP's moves, and is expected to counter them.

Sabarimala gold row dims Ayyappa Sangamam sheen

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The deepening mystery over the missing gold plating of the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple in Kerala has taken the sheen off the Pinarayi Vijayan government's strategic move of organising the Global Ayyappa Sangamam to enhance the regime's rapport with Hindu outfits ahead of the Assembly polls.

The Sree Narayana Dharma Pariparala Yogam (SNDP), which represents the largest Hindu community in Kerala — the Ezhavas — and backed the Sangamam, has already come out in the open against the government over the row.

The Nair Service Society leadership, which represents the second-largest Hindu community — the Nairs — is said to be in a catch-22 situation for having supported the Left Front government during the Ayyappa Sangamam.

The Congress has already started cashing in on the row by announcing a stir with the participation of devotees on Thursday over the missing gold.

The BJP as well as Sangh Parivar outfits were also gearing up for major demonstrations over the issue, which could resemble the protests that the state witnessed in 2018-19 following attempts to enforce the Supreme Court order allowing women in the 10-50 age group to enter the temple.

The Sabarimala Karma Samithi and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad have already filed police reports seeking a case against those responsible for the "theft".

Pilgrimage in November

Incidentally, the row is snowballing into a major issue just ahead of the annual pilgrimage. The two-month-long annual pilgrimage to the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple begins in November.

The row is also getting murkier by the day. Former officials of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) as well as those engaged in the temple's gold-plating have asserted that the "dwarapalaka" idols were gold-plated with industrialist Vijay Mallya's sponsorship in 1998.

This deepened the mystery as the platings were mentioned as copper only, even in the TDB's records. Meanwhile, the gold-plating with the sponsorship of Bengaluru-based Malayali Unnikrishnan Potty is also now under a cloud of suspicion. While Potty was quizzed by the Devaswom Vigilance on Saturday and Sunday, Devaswom officials could also face the probe.

DNA DETOUR

Study shines light on Indian Sindhis' unique genetic makeup

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Indian Sindhi community settled along India's west coast has a closer genetic affinity to the Burusho people of Pakistan than to the Pakistani Sindhis, reveals a genetic study conducted by researchers at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad. This distinction is marked by an additional East/Southeast Asian genetic component in the Indian Sindhis.

The Sindhi population on the west coast, primarily settled around Thane in Maharashtra, derives its genetic ancestry not directly from Pakistani Sindhis but from groups related to the Burusho in Pakistan. Admixture modelling suggested that the Indian Sindhis' genetic mixing with an East/Southeast Asian source occurred approximately 40–50 generations ago, explaining their unique genetic profile today.

India's west coast is home to a diverse array of human populations. This expansive region, stretching between the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats, has witnessed various migrations over centuries, involving West Eurasian groups such as the Portuguese, Middle Easterners, Jews, Parsees and Christian missionaries. While genetic studies have extensively examined populations like Parsees, Jews and Catholics, the origins and genetic relationships of many southwestern coastal groups remain largely unexplored.

Among these comparatively small communities are the Indian Sindhis residing on the Konkan coast of Maharashtra. Although their migration from the Sindh region of present-day Pakistan has been ongoing for centuries, their population surged during the post-independence partition of India. Despite the numerous genetic studies on Pakistani Sindhis, little genetic data existed for those living on India's west coast, where they are socio-culturally distinct.

This gap was addressed for the first time by Kumarasamy Thangaraj, CSIR Bhatnagar Fellow at CCMB, and his colleague Lomous Kumar. They examined the common ancestry, local assimilation and migration history of the west coast Sindhi population, publishing their findings in the international journal Human Genomics.

Bengaluru Monday, October 6, 2025 Pages 14 Vol 78 No 276 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Bihar voter roll 'purified' after 22 years: CEC

Gyanesh Kumar says the exercise will now be conducted across the country

Rain fury kills 20 in north Bengal

Landslides snap connectivity; hundreds of tourists stranded

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

At least 20 people, including several children, were killed as landslides triggered by torrential rain and thunderstorms wreaked havoc in the Darjeeling and Mirik hills of north Bengal, officials said on Sunday. Compounding the gravity of the situation, vast areas have been flooded as water gushed in from neighbouring Bhutan and Sikkim, and rivers such as Sankosh, Teesta and Torsa overflowed, displacing thousands of people.

Hundreds of tourists were stranded in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong and Mirik as landslides in at least seven locations snapped road connectivity between the hill stations and Siliguri town in the Himalayan foothills.

Bhutan has warned the West Bengal government that a dam on the overflowing Wang Chhu river in its territory might collapse anytime and worsen the flood in the Dooars region of north Bengal.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that north Bengal received more than 300 mm of rainfall in just 12 hours. Besides, excessive water from Bhutan and Sikkim contributed to the disaster.

Speaking to the media in Kolkata, the chief minister said two iron bridges had collapsed, several roads damaged, and huge tracts of land inundated in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar districts.

▸ Landslides, Page 5
52 killed in Nepal, Page 11

Rescue operation underway after a bridge collapsed in Darjeeling on Sunday. PTI

Worst landslides to hit the region in a decade

Mirik and Darjeeling hills affected

- Slopes cave in, highways buried, communication lines snapped
- Fear of dam collapse in Bhutan
- Connectivity remains severely disrupted across Darjeeling and North Sikkim
- Bridge connecting Siliguri to Mirik-Darjeeling route damaged
- IMD warns of heavy rainfall till Oct 6

History of Darjeeling landslides

72 killed in 1899

Around 1,000 killed in 1968

40 killed in 2015

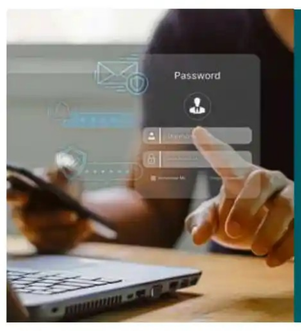
B'luru scientists show quantum path to 'unhackable' OTP

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Quantum researchers led by a senior scientist at the Raman Research Institute (RRI) in Bengaluru have created a "simplified" way for "unhackable" digital security, which could protect banking passwords and encrypted data from cyber attacks.

The new research at RRI, in collaboration with scientists at the IISc and the University of Calgary in Canada, has proven that it is possible to generate secure, certified random numbers using the inherent randomness in quantum physics.

The results were published in a journal recently.



NUMBERS GAME

- **Random numbers** Sequence of numbers which are unpredictable
- **Pseudo-random numbers** Created by in-principled predictable algorithms using an initial value, hence hackable
- **Certified random numbers** Created by harnessing physical phenomena which are unpredictable, hence harder to hack

'Random numbers' here refer to a sequence of numbers that is unpredictable. Globally, they are utilised to ensure secure communication in various strategic fields, such as the generation of one-time password (OTP) for banking services and encrypting private chats.

However, pseudo-random numbers created by classical computers become predictable beyond a point, making them hackable.

▸ Cyber security, Page 5

CHARGES IN FIR

BNS Section 276 (adulteration of drugs – punishable with up to 1-yr jail) | **BNS Section 105** (culpable homicide not amounting to murder – max punishment of 10 yrs in jail) | **Section 27A** of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, (over 10 yrs in jail or life term)

Cough syrup deaths: MP cops book doctor, TN company

Syrup blamed for death of 14 kids in Chhindwara

CHHINDWARA (MP), PTI

Police have arrested a doctor for alleged negligence and registered a case against the manufacturer of a 'toxic' cough syrup after the death of 14 children in Chhindwara due to suspected renal failure, officials said on Sunday.

The Madhya Pradesh government has banned the sale of Coldrif cough syrup, with officials stating the drug samples have been found to contain a highly toxic substance.

Of the children who died, 11 were from Parasia sub-division, two from Chhindwara city and one from Chaurai tehsil.

The Coldrif cough syrup was manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceutical, Kancheepuram (Tamil Nadu).

A case has been registered at Parasia police station against the company and Dr Praveen Soni, who, despite being a government doctor here, was practicing at a private clinic and prescribed the syrup, Chhindwara district police chief Ajay Pandey told reporters.

▸ Cough syrup, Page 5
Hubballi hosp stops giving syrup, Page 4

An official checks bottles of 'Coldrif' cough syrup in Jabalpur, MP. PTI

2 kids die in Betul

Two children from Amla block in Madhya Pradesh's Betul district have died allegedly after taking Coldrif cough syrup, which has been banned now as tests showed presence of a toxic chemical.

DGCA to probe Dreamliner mid-air scare

MUMBAI, DHNS & PTI: The DGCA on Sunday said it will probe the incident involving an Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner, whose Ram Air Turbine, which is usually used in case of engine failures, unexpectedly deployed before minutes before landing in Birmingham. The Federation of Indian Pilots wrote to the DGCA after the incident. The flight had taken off from Amritsar.

Details on Page 10

Soon, affordable aero sports training in K'taka

DH SPECIAL

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a first-of-its-kind initiative in India, Karnataka is planning to launch certified courses for aero adventure sports pilots.

Formal training and certification in aero adventure sports, including paragliding, parasailing, hot air balloon and skydiving, is available only overseas and the cost runs into thousands of dollars, according to the department of youth empowerment and sports.

The state government's initiative could make training and certification affordable for adventure sports enthusiasts.

"The course fee, together with boarding and lodging in a foreign country, makes the whole programme expensive. We want to make it as affordable as possible," said Naveen Raj Singh, Principal Secretary, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports.

Interest in aero adventure sports has increased drastically in India over the last few years. With many tourist spots in the hills now offering such activities, demand for trained pilots has also gone up.

Many tourist places in the Himalayas, Pune and the Nilgiris are seeing a large number of tourists interested in participating in such sports.

Moreover, many youngsters are now looking at it as a lucrative career that also allows them to follow their passion.

▸ Aero sports, Page 5

Curfew in violence-hit Cuttack areas

CUTTACK/BHUBANESWAR, PTI: The Odisha government on Sunday night imposed prohibitory orders in 13 police station areas of Cuttack, after 25 people were injured in a fresh episode of violence, following a recent group clash during a Durga idol immersion procession.

The state government has suspended internet services in the Cuttack Municipal Corporation area.

Details on Page 10

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BDA aims to get 80% land for Peripheral Ring Road in 4 months

Officers to start contacting landowners today

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid resistance from some landowners and local leaders, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has launched the final phase of land acquisition for the 74-km Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC) project.

Landowners have been asked to choose one of five compensation options within a month.

If all goes as planned, the BDA aims to secure at least 80% of the required land within four months.

LK Atheeq, Chairperson of Bengaluru Business Corridor Ltd, said Special Land Acquisition Officers (SLAOs) would begin reaching out to landowners from Monday.

The five compensation choices include cash compensation, Transferable Development Rights (TDR), additional Floor Area Ratio (FAR), developed residential land or commercial land adjacent to the expressway.

LK ATHEEQ
Chairperson, Bengaluru Business Corridor Ltd

"The background work is almost complete. The BDA has approved the price fixation report and is awaiting certain state government clearances. We expect to finish the acquisition within the next three to four months.

While cash payment is less attractive due to the suppressed guidance value, most farmers are expected to opt for residential or commercial land. TDR and FAR options are likely to interest those involved in real estate and with political influence.

The 74-km expressway will feature eight main lanes along the main carriageway, 30-foot-wide two-lane service roads on both sides, a cycle track and a wide median planned for a future metro corridor. The total width will be 65 metres, with an additional 35 metres earmarked to provide developed plots to farmers choosing land-based compensation.

Atheeq said nine SLAOs are handling the process. "The background work is almost complete. The BDA has approved the price fixation report and is awaiting certain state government clearances. We expect to finish the acquisition within the next three to four months," he said.

The expressway will connect NICE Road at both ends — Electronics City and the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) at Madavara — and will later link with the Major Arterial Road (MAR) for integration with Peripheral Ring Road–2.

A senior BDA official said around 5,000 landowners have been notified. "Each landowner will receive a letter listing their land details and the available compensation options," the official said.

However, several landowners have opposed the terms and are demanding compensation under the 2013 Land Acquisition Act. Some are planning to approach the high court seeking fair market value.

City sees 133% surge in juvenile crime; second in country: NCRB

427 juvenile offences in 2023, a jump from 200 in 2022

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru recorded the second-highest number of crimes committed by juveniles in the country, as per the latest data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

In 2023, the city reported 427 offences involving juveniles — a sharp jump from 200 in 2022 and 177 in 2021. Bengaluru ranks second only to Chennai, which registered 523 such cases in that year.

The NCRB data showed mixed trends across other metros. Hyderabad reported a drop from 300 cases in 2022 to 180 in 2023, while Kolkata saw a rise from 9 in 2022 to 115 in 2023.

A senior police officer attributed the rise in serious crimes among juveniles to the glorification of crime in the media and the imitation of "rowdy" culture, where youth seek identity and recognition.

"Many such cases stem from school dropouts after class 10, leaving teenagers without direction," the officer said.

A senior police officer attributed the rise in serious crimes among juveniles to the glorification of crime in the media and the imitation of "rowdy" culture, where youth seek identity and recognition.

He added that this vulnerability, combined with the broken window effect — where existing problems encourage further crime — pushes youth towards illegal activity that offers quick identity within peer groups.

Other causes include family instability, low-income backgrounds, and unemployment. The officer also pointed to flaws in the justice system, saying that arresting juveniles for minor offences often turns them into hardened criminals, as "jails become colleges of postgraduation".

"This is a catch-22 situation. The root cause is unemployment and lack of vocational opportunities. We need skill-based training and stronger parental, social, and peer control to prevent first-time offenders from spiralling further," he told *DH*.

Child psychologist Dr Nandini Rao said the rise in juvenile crime reflects growing emotional and social pressures among adolescents.

"We are seeing increasing peer pressure, social media addiction, and a lack of adequate parental supervision. Teenagers are navigating complex emotional landscapes without the coping mechanisms or guidance they need," she said.

Dr Nandini stressed the need for community-based programmes that focus on skill-building, emotional regulation, and moral mentorship.

"Children today are highly sensitive and prone to depression. Schools and families must collaborate to create environments that discourage risky behaviour and promote emotional resilience for adolescents," she added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT PRINCIPAL BENCH AT BENGALURU.
(AUCTION SALE NOTICE)

AUCTION/SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES BY INVITING PUBLIC AUCTION UNDER ORDER DATED 12-08-2025 IN WP.22247/2025 OF THE HONORABLE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, PRINCIPAL BENCH AT BENGALURU.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to TRUSTEES/PETITIONER-1 and obligant/s of SHUSHRUTI EDUCATION TRUST in WP.22247/2025 that the below described immovable property purchased in its name will be sold by auction sale of properties mentioned below at the date and time, and on the terms & conditions stated below.

Last Date, Time and Place for receipt of EMD: 20-10-2025 till 4.00pm at Office of The Court Commissioner, Appointed in WP.22247/2025 by The Honorable High Court of Karnataka, #14/6, 3rd floor, Sanjaynagar Main Road, Bengaluru 560094.

Date & Time of Opening Auction Bids: 21-10-2025 at 2:00pm.

Terms & conditions for Public Auction Sale:

1. Intending bidders are advised to submit their bids in sealed cover within the stipulated time. The reserve price is Rs. 85,00,00,000/-. Incremental bids over and above the reserve price should be at a minimum of Rs.50,00,000/- and its multiples thereafter.
2. The Sale will be on **"AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS & WHATEVER THERE IS"** basis.
3. Bids once made/submitted shall not be cancelled or withdrawn.
4. All bidders shall be deemed to have read and understood the terms and conditions of sale and be bound by them.
5. To participate in the Auction, intending bidders have to deposit **3%** (Three) of the reserve price as mentioned above as refundable EMD in the form of Demand Draft of a Scheduled Bank favoring **SHUSHRUTHI EDUCATION TRUST (A/c No: 44512049131 IFSC :SBIN0003182) Bengaluru** to reach the Court Commissioner's office well in advance during working days prior to the Auction Sale i.e before the time and date specified above. EMD will not carry any interest.
6. Bidders not submitting EMD will not be allowed to participate in the Auction Sale and such bids stands rejected on the face of it.
7. The successful bidders who has quoted the highest bid , his EMD DD will be deposited in the Bank account in the name of the Petitioner 1 operated by the Court Commissioner for its encashment and this will not be refundable once bids are opened and highest bidders quote was approved.
8. Unsuccessful bidders EMD DD will be returned after 7(Seven) days of Court approval of the highest bidder.
9. To the best of knowledge and information of the Court Commissioner, there are no encumbrance on the properties. However, intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues/effecting the property, prior to submitting the bid.
10. This advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment of any representation of the Court Commissioner. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the Court Commissioner. The Court Commissioner shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues.
11. The property will not be sold below the Reserve Price set by The Court Commissioner, if any bids are lower it stands rejected on the face of it.
12. The successful bidder by RTGS must transfer the entire bid amount within 15(Fifteen) days of acceptance The Honorable High Court of Karnataka ,Bengaluru to SBI **A/c No: 44512049131 IFSC :SBIN0003182) Bengaluru, Cauvery Branch**. If the successful bidder defaults in effecting payment or fails to adhere to the terms of Sale in any manner, the EMD amount already deposited will be forfeited and he / she shall not have any claim on such forfeited amount or to the property, which shall be sold subsequently.
13. On receipt of sale offers received by the Court Commissioner and if the EMD terms of the payment have been complied with, the Court Commissioner exercising the Power of Sale will place it before the High Court and after acceptance by the Hon'ble High Court it shall execute the Sale Deed of immovable property in favour of the purchaser whose bid is the highest after entire amount is credited to the Bank as above. No substitution of name other than those mentioned in the bid will be entertained for the Sale Deed.
14. Sale Deed will be registered in the name of successful bidder only who should produce copy of PAN card / ID proof before issue of Sale Certificate.
15. The EMD of the unsuccessful bidder shall be returned within 7 days after the approval of the highest bidder without interest.
16. All other charges, expenses like conveyance, electricity, WSSB, legal, stamp duty, registration fee, arrears of tax charged, TDS and other pending/future taxes etc, if any, shall be borne by the purchaser/bidder.
17. The property / properties under auction is / are free of all encumbrances. Encumbrances if any created without the notice of the Court Commissioner by the borrower, will be the sole lookout of the successful bidder.
18. The Court Commissioner shall not be responsible for misstatement for omission in this proclamation.
19. At any stage of the Auction, the Court Commissioner shall have the power to accept or reject bids or postpone / cancel the Auction without assigning any reason thereof including addition or deletion of other terms and conditions.
20. For inspection of the properties and other particulars, the intending bidders are at liberty to make their own inspection/ assessment/enquiries about the property during week days during working hours only.

AUCTION SALE PROPERTIES

Item No.1: Sale Deed dated 29.04.2002 in respect of Site bearing No.6, Katha No.55, Assessment No.63/1, registered as Document No.1890/2002-03, measuring 30 x 40 = 1,200 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.2: Sale Deed dated 29.04.2002 in respect of Site bearing No.5, Katha No.55, Assessment No.63/1, registered as Document No.1893/2002-03, measuring 30 x 40 = 1,200 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.3: Sale Deed dated 29.04.2002 in respect of Site bearing No.1/2, Katha No.55, Assessment No.63/1, registered as Document No.1899/2002-03, measuring 36.6 x 90 = 3,295 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.4: Sale Deed dated 27.05.2002 in respect of Site bearing No.21/22, Katha No.63/2 and 68, registered as Document No.3841/ 2002-03, measuring 60 x 40 = 2,400 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District. (Mortgaged).

Item No.5: Sale Deed dated 10.12.2001 in respect of Sites bearing No.23, 24 and 25, Katha No.63/2 and 68, registered as Document No.13642/2001-02, measuring 40 x 90 = 3,600 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.6: Sale Deed dated 03.02.2006 in respect of Site No.17, Assessment bearing No.63/2 and 68, Now, Dasarahalli City Municipal Council Katha No.540, C.M.C Ward No.35, registered as Document No.22854/2005-06, measuring 36 x 15 and measuring 15 x 24 = 900 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, Bangalore.

Item No.7: Sale Deed dated 28.03.2007 in respect of Schedule Property No.63/2 and 68, C.M.C Limit, Katha No.1210, registered as Document No.69590/2006-07, measuring 100 x 45, 20 x 40 = 5,300 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.8: Sale Deed dated 09.12.2002 in respect of Site bearing House List bearing No.40, Katha No.717/747, Assessment No.63/2 and 70/2, registered as Document No.24869/2002-03, measuring 30 x 40 = 1,200 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.9: Sale Deed dated 03.02.2003 in respect of Site bearing House List bearing No.45 and 46, Katha No.717/747 and Assessment No.63/2 and 70/2, registered as Document No.24863/ 2002-03, measuring 40 x 65 = 2,600 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.10: Sale Deed dated 09.12.2002 in respect of Site bearing House List bearing No.41, 42 and 43, Katha No.717/747, Assessment No.63/2 and 70/2, registered as Document No.24866/2002-03, measuring 65'-(30x40) feet, situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.11: Sale Deed dated 30.03.2007 in respect of property bearing Assessment No.63/2 and 68, Dasanahalli, C.M.C Limit, Ward No.35, Katha No.1285, registered as Document No.26/2007-08, measuring 25 x 150 = 3,750 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.12: Sale Deed dated 30.03.2007 in respect of property bearing Assessment No.63/2 and 70/2, Dasanahalli, C.M.C Limit, Ward No.35, Katha No.374, registered as Document No.24/2007-08, measuring 25 x 60 = 1,500 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.13: Sale Deed dated 30.01.2004 in respect of property Katha No.55, Assessment No.63/1, registered as Document No.42158/2003-04, measuring 190+170 x 35 = 6,300 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.14: Sale Deed dated 30.01.2004 in respect of property Katha No.45, Assessment No.63/1, registered as Document No.42162/2003-04, measuring 250+220 x 35+45 = 9,400 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.15: Sale Deed dated 24.03.2007 in respect of schedule Property No.63/1, C.M.C Limit Katha No.1229, Khata No.1299 registered as Document No.68855/2006-07, measuring 35 x 190 = 6650 Sq.ft., measuring 30 x 150 = 4,500 Sq.ft., measuring 30 x 90 = 2,700 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.16: Sale Deed dated 26.04.2005 in respect of property bearing Site No. 9 and 10, Katha No.55, property Assessment No.63 and 68, registered as Document No.4523/2005-06, measuring 30 x 80 = 2,400 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.17: Sale Deed dated 30.03.2007 in respect of **property bearing Assessment No.**63/2 and 70/2, Dasanahalli, C.M.C Limit, Ward No.35, Katha No.562, registered as Document No.25/2007-08, measuring 25 x 90 = 2,250 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.18: Sale Deed dated 03.02.2003 in respect of Site bearing House List No.35, Katha No.318:847 and Assessment No.63/2 and 68, registered as Document No.24872/2002-03, measuring 115+135 x 60+63 feet, situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.19: Sale Deed dated 03.02.2003 in respect of Site bearing House List bearing No.44, Katha No.717/747 and Assessment No.63/2 and 70/2, registered as Document No.24860/2002-03, measuring 30 x 40 = 1,200 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.20: Gift Deed dated 30.11.2018 in respect of Site bearing No.16, Assessment No.63/2 and 68, registered as Document No.6687/2018-19, measuring 30 x 36/40 = 1,140 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.21: Sale Deed dated 13.04.2005 in respect of Site bearing No.17, Assessment No.63/2, Katha No.570, registered as Document No.2003/2005-06, measuring 15 x 36 = 540 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.22: Sale Deed dated 29.04.2022 in respect of Site bearing No.7/8, Katha No.55, Assessment No.63/1, registered as Document No.1887/2002-03, measuring 36.6 x 90 = 3,285 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.23: Sale Deed dated 29.04.2022 in respect of Site bearing No.3/4, Katha No.55, Assessment No.63/1, registered as Document No.1896/2002-03, measuring 60 x 40 = 2,400 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.24: Sale Deed dated 13.05.2002 in respect of Site bearing No.12/13, Katha No.63/2 and 68, House List No.27, registered as Document No.2824/2002-03, measuring 60 x 40 = 2,400 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Item No.25: Sale Deed dated 23.10.2002 in respect of Site No.1, Katha No.63/2 and 68, registered as Document No.14985/2002-03, measuring 20 x 40 = 800 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District and Sale Deed dated 09.03.2005 in respect of Site bearing No.16, Assessment No.68 and 63/2, Katha No.68, measuring 36 x 40 = 1,140 Sq.ft.

Item No.26: Sale Deed dated 09.03.2005 in respect of Site bearing No.16, Assessment No.68 and 63/2, Katha No.68, measuring 36 x 40 = 1,140 Sq.ft. document nbr.56160/04-05.

Item No.27: Sale Deed dated 10.06.2003 in respect of property bearing No.21, Katha No.622, Khanashumari No.212/461, measuring East to West (75+68)/2 feet, and North to South 40 feet, situated at HegganahalliVillage, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, registered as Document No.8499/2003-04 .

Item No.28: Sale Deed dated 03.02.2006 in respect of Western portion of property bearing Site No.33, Assessment bearing No.63/2 & 68, Now Dasarahalli CMC Katha No.541, CMC Ward No.35, measuring East to West 15 feet and North to South 40 feet and adjoining Northern side property measuring East to West 15 feet and North to South 25 feet, totally 975 Sq.ft., **and** in respect of property bearing Site No.47, Assesement bearing No.63/2 & 68, Now Dasarahalli CMC Katha No.541, CMC Ward No.35, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft., both are situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, registered as Document No.22881/2005-06.

Item No.29: Relinquishment Deed dated 16-03-2019, in respect of property bearing Assessment No.63/2 & 68, measuring East to West 60 feet, and North to South 85 feet, totally measuring 5100 Sq.ft., and in respect of property bearing Assessment No.63/2 & 68, measuring East to West 65 feet, and North to South 45 feet, totally measuring 2925 Sq.ft., now coming under the BBMP Ward No.35, situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, registered as Document No.9092/2018-19.

Item No.30: Sale Deed dated 27.08.2010 in respect of property bearing No.133-A, Assessment No.25 & 26, Katha No.25/26, measuring East to West (35+7)/2 feet, and North to South (48+40)/2 feet, situated at Andrahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, registered as Document No.3231/2010-11.

Item No.31: Sale Deed dated 22.01.2010 in respect of property bearing No.11(Southern Portion), Assessment No.63/2, Katha No.242, measuring east to west 60 feet and north to south 15 feed, situated at Dasarahalli Nagarasabhe, Yeshwantupur Hobli, Bangalore north taluk, Document nbr. 4282/2009-10.

Item No.32: Relinquishment Deed dated 30.11.2018 in respect of property with House List No.139, Katha No.68 & 63/2, measuring East to West 30 feet, and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft., situated at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, registered as Document No.6677/2018-19 .

All these scheduled properties are situated in one place within common boundaries comprising all educational institutions therein run under the trusts.

Bengaluru
06/10/2025

The Court Commissioner
Appointed by the Honorable High Court of Karnataka, at the Principal Bench at Bengaluru.

Pro-Kannada activists storm gaming centre in Koramangala

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tension prevailed in Koramangala for a while on Sunday after a group of pro-Kannada activists stormed a gaming centre and ransacked the premises.

The protesters, identified as members of Namma Karnataka Sene, argued with the staff of the establishment before the police intervened.

They also allegedly manhandled the proprietor of the Golden Aces Poker Room. They claimed that these places are "spoiling" the youth.

They were detained by the police due to violation of the high court order, which doesn't allow protests outside Freedom Park.

On September 25, the police arrested 41 activists of another pro-Kannada organisation after they barged into a Hindi programme at a five-star hotel, raising slogans, tearing up flex posters and smashing furniture in protest against Hindi "imposition".

Protesters, identified as members of Namma Karnataka Sene, seen arguing with the staff of the establishment.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Students' welcome ceremony: Dilip Krishnaswamy and V Nandakumar to attend; Ramaiah Institute of Technology, MSR Nagar; 11 am.

Conference: 'IKS Horizons–Indian Knowledge System'; Anil Sahasrabudhe and Wooday P Krishna to attend; Seshadripuram First Grade College, Seshadripuram; 11 am.

Book release: 'V Gopala Gowda–75 Abhinandane'; Organised by V Gopala Gowda Congratulatory Committee; Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha; 4.30 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	0.8 mm
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	81%
Sunset (Oct 6)	6:07 pm
Sunrise (Oct 7)	6:09 am
Moonrise	4:47 pm
Moonset	4:10 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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CPWD
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on behalf of the President of India invites online percentage rate bids from specialized firms/contractors in two bid system:

1.	Name of Work	Providing and placing New B P Morcha at designated places including rooftop of various buildings at Parliament House Complex, New Delhi
2.	Approx. cost of work	₹ 6,85,01,607.00
3.	Earnest Money Deposit	₹ 13,70,032.00
4.	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	06.10.2025 to 27.10.2025 (1500 Hrs)
5.	Pre-Bid meeting Date & Time & Location	13.10.2025 (1600 Hrs) at Parliament Library Building, Parliament House Complex, New Delhi.
6.	E-Tender Open date & Time	27.10.2025 (1530 Hrs)
7.	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	https://etender.cpwd. gov. in

CBC 44105/11/0001/2526

A photograph of the blaze (shared by a netizen).
CREDIT: X/@SRIHARIKARANTH

Fire in garbage pile sparks panic

BENGALURU, DHNS: A garbage pile caught fire on Sunday near Bannerghatta Road, sending residents into panic.

Videos of the incident, circulated on social media, showed thick smoke rising from an open area surrounded by residential buildings.

Fire department officials said vehicles were deployed following an alert and the blaze was brought under control soon after.

"No untoward incident was reported," an officer said, adding that a probe is underway.

Man held for peddling ganja in VV Puram

BENGALURU, DHNS: The VV Puram police have arrested a Nepalese national for allegedly peddling ganja.

Officers recovered 330 grams of narcotics worth Rs 45,000 from him.

The police said they received information on September 27 about a man selling drugs near KR Road. A team went to the spot and arrested the suspect.

During questioning, he confessed to buying the drugs from a contact to make a quick profit by reselling them at a higher price.

He has been booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and remanded in judicial custody.

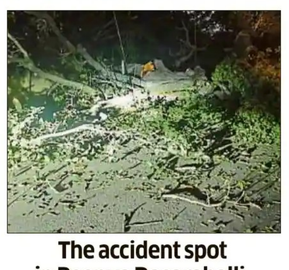
Tree falls on two-wheeler, kills woman; rider hospitalised

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 24-year-old woman died after a tree fell on a two-wheeler in Peenya Dasarahalli on Sunday evening.

The police identified the deceased as Keertana, a resident of Hebbal.

Eyewitnesses said that Keertana was riding pillion on a two-wheeler driven by Bhaskar when the tree suddenly collapsed on them around 8 pm. She died on the spot due to severe injuries, while Bhaskar sustained injuries and was taken to hospital.

The Soladevanahalli police visited the spot and have launched an investigation.



The accident spot in Peenya Dasarahalli.

"The tree fell due to strong winds and rain, causing the accident," said the police. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway.

Caste survey covers 1.19L households

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which launched a socio-educational survey across all five city corporations, has covered 1.19 lakh households as of Saturday.

Data released by the authority shows that the West City Corporation recorded the highest participation, with 40,112 households surveyed, followed by the North City Corporation with 31,363.

The East, South, and Central city corporations have so far covered 17,269, 16,445, and 14,288 households, respectively, the data showed.

The GBA has urged citizens to cooperate with surveyors during household visits and encouraged residents to participate through self-declaration on its official portal: https://kscbcselfdeclaration.karnataka.gov.in/.

PRE-MONDAY PEACE

No honks, no chaos. Electronics City takes a deep breath before Monday's traffic madness returns, as Hosur Road enjoys a rare moment of calm under clear blue skies.
DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Need a hand? Write to us

Letters of grievances are pouring in and we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible. Readers may write in to highlight civic problems affecting their locality and we will help address them in an interactive and effective manner. Grievances and issues related to public utility agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) would be highlighted in the weekly column.

The writeups, which could be accompanied by photographs highlighting the problems, will be published on Mondays. Mail your grievances to: peoplesproblems @deccanherald.co.in

Dangerously leaning tree on Bannerghatta Road

A coconut tree on the footpath, located partly in front of the Kalyani Motors Maruti showroom on Bannerghatta Road in Bilekhalli, is severely bent and leaning against a transformer and electrical cables, creating a pedestrian hazard. Moreover, dried coconuts are falling, further endangering the safety of people walking on the footpath.

I urge the BBMP and Bescom to take immediate action to resolve this issue for the safety of pedestrians.

Rajagopal Kaladar
Akshaya Nagar

The tree is leaning against a transformer and electrical cables, creating a pedestrian hazard.

Inquiry after inmate celebrates birthday inside Bengaluru jail

BENGALURU, DHNS: Authorities have ordered an inquiry after an inmate inside the Parappana Agrahara central prison here allegedly celebrated his birthday and recorded the incident on mobile phones.

The video of the incident was shared widely on social media. According to sources, the inmate is Srinivasa alias Gubbachhi Seena, a history-sheeter currently lodged in jail following his arrest earlier this year for allegedly murdering his rival and fellow rowdy Venkatesha in Doddabommasandra.

Police had shot him in the leg after he allegedly attempted to escape and caught him.

Top sources told *DH* that last week, the wife of the deceased had met B Dayananda, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP Prisons), with a report regarding the videos being circulated. The ADGP immediately ordered an inquiry based on the report. The other inmates in the video were also identified, sources said.

A controversy had erupted last year after murder-accused actor Darshan Thoogudeepa was seen smoking and hobnobbing with known criminals inside the Bengaluru prison.

Govt clears Rs 405-crore action plan for Bengaluru

Work cannot be started till elections are held to GBA

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Anticipating special funds under the 15th Finance Commission, the state government has approved three separate action plans for Bengaluru, comprising a total of 70 works worth over Rs 405 crore.

While the approval will pave the way for preparatory works, the commission is unlikely to release the funds anytime soon, as it has repeatedly reminded Karnataka to first hold the civic body polls that were due in September 2020.

In an order dated September 2, the Urban Development Department (UDD) approved the action plan for three separate grants earmarked for 2023–24, 2024–25 and 2025–26 — all at once. All these works fall under the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA), which covers a total of five municipal corporations.

The action plan was prepared by the now-dissolved Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in August this year, primarily to address air pollution in the city. Following the dissolution of the BBMP, the five corporations have been entrusted with implementing the works, which is also one of the mandates of the 15th Finance Commission.

While the government's approval will pave the way for the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), the five corporations will not be able to start the work until the elections are held. In its order, the UDD also noted that tenders should be approved only after the Union government releases the grants.

When Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar visited Bengaluru earlier this year, the state government had requested him to exempt the city from the election condition, stating that the matter is pending before the Supreme Court. Apart from the grants meant for Bengaluru, the delay in holding panchayat elections has also contributed to delays in implementing works across the state.

Action plan

2023-24
Rs 147 crore
23 works (Pedestrian-friendly footpaths, greening of open spaces)

2024-25
Rs 133.66 crore
14 works (EV charging station, transfer stations for construction debris, improvement of junctions)

2025-26
Rs 124.50 crore
33 works (mostly related to footpath development)

Some citizen activists opined that the government must withdraw the action plan until the corporation elections are held so that councillors can decide on the works to be taken up.

Others welcomed the allocations and the focus on developing footpaths.

Clement Jayakumar, a member of the Mahadevapura Task Force, said contractors generally prefer asphalting as it was faster to complete and offered higher profit margins. "Footpath work is labour-intensive and takes about a month to complete," he said, adding that authorities must do away with paver blocks for footpaths and introduce brushed concrete, which has a longer lifespan.

BYV predicts 'lot of changes' in state politics after Bihar polls

MYSURU, DHNS: BJP state president B Y Vijayendra said, "It is clear that there will be a lot of changes in the state politics after the Bihar Assembly elections."

He was speaking to reporters in the city on Sunday. "The Congress leaders, including AICC national general secretary K C Venugopal, have nowhere said that there will be no change in leadership in Karnataka. They have just said not to discuss this and the high command will take a decision. This means that there will be changes," Vijayendra added.

There are also discussions across the state about whether the socio-economic survey being conducted is related to the revolution in state politics, he said.

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is in a hurry, had recently displayed his show of strength at a programme in Mysuru. He also did a ramp walk amidst the people. But, Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and D K Shivakumar were seen ahead of him. What is the meaning of this? Ministers and MLAs of his party are saying that there would be political revolution in November," Vijayendra added.

There is increasing confusion over the social, educational and economic survey among all the communities. It looks like a decision has been taken in a hurry without any preparations. There are severe criticisms, he said.

High Court modifies life sentence in Hubballi painter's death case

BENGALURU, DHNS

Holds appellants guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder

The high court has modified the life sentence imposed upon two persons from Hubballi in connection with the killing of a painter.

A division bench of Justices S R Krishna Kumar and C M Poonacha noted lack of ingredients for murder under IPC Sec 302 such as premeditation and intent to kill and instead convicted the accused for culpable homicide not amounting to murder punishable under IPC section 304.

The accused Shamshuddin Savanur and Zuber Ahmed are into fabrication works. The prosecution case was that on Mar 11, 2020, between 12 and 12.30 pm, the accused had a heated exchange of words with Shaabuddin Bikanbai at Pathangalli tea stall. Thereafter, the accused repeatedly stabbed Shaabuddin using knives, resulting in his death.

The Kasabapet police registered a case based on a complaint by Shaabuddin's father Mehaboobsab Ibrahimsab Bikanbai and filed a charge sheet for murder and other charges.\

On Mar 25, 2022, the Sessions court convicted both accused for murder. The court sentenced them to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 75,000 each after considering the evidence of the father, brother and brother-in-law of the deceased as well as other independent witnesses.

In the appeal before the high court, the accused argued that there were inconsistencies in the evidence of several prosecution witnesses regarding the occurrence of the stabbing incident as their statements doesn't tally with each other.

The division bench noted that apart from the statements made by three close relatives of the deceased, two other independent witnesses had also testified that the deceased was stabbed by the accused using knives.

However, citing the judgements of the Apex Court, the division bench said that ingredients such as premeditation, intention to kill, as pointed out by the top court, are key requirements for holding an accused guilty for murder under Section 302 of IPC.

"Under these circumstances, we are of the view that the present appeal deserves to be partly allowed and the impugned judgment passed by the trial court deserves to modified by convicting and sentencing the appellant/accused persons for offence of culpable homicide not amounting to murder by invoking Section 304 Part II IPC and by issuing appropriate directions in this regard," the bench said, while directing the convicts to pay fine of Rs 25,000 each, payable to the father of the deceased.

History sheets on 8 for supporting criminals on social media

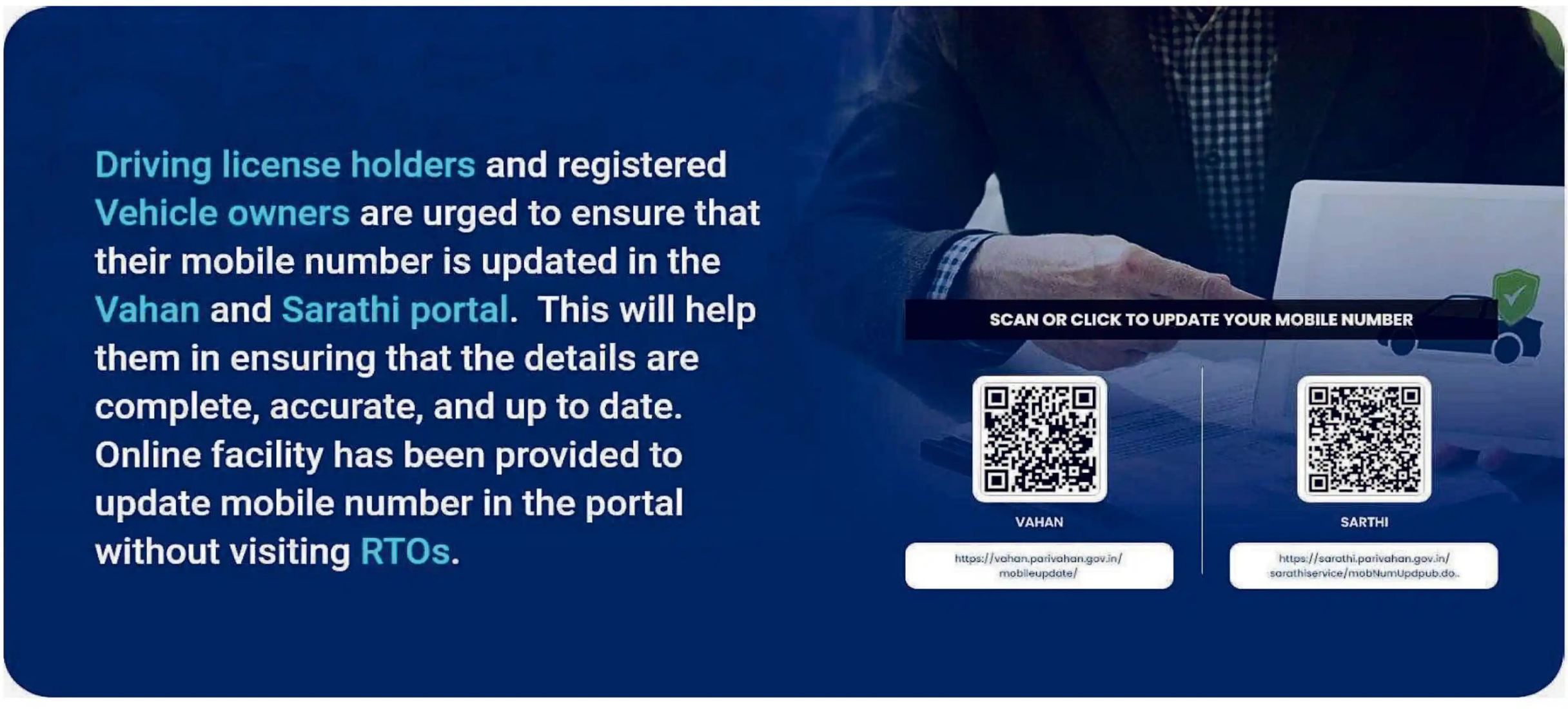
BENGALURU, DHNS: The police have opened history sheets against eight people for supporting notorious criminals on social media.

This follows FIRs registered in July by the Siddapura police after some Instagram users posted videos and reels projecting notorious rowdies as "heroes".

"Eight suspects, of whom one is a woman, were identified and arrest procedures initiated," said Lokesh B Jagalasar, DCP (South).

"We considered that these people made posts supporting rowdy gangs and elements. We are watching such social media accounts and despite them trying to change usernames, they will be traced," he added.

Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways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CBC 37101/13/0011/2526

Survey meant for CM's votes: Somanna

BENGALURU, DHNS: Union Railway Minister for State V Somanna on Sunday expressed disappointment over the ongoing social and educational survey being conducted by the state backward classes commission.

He expressed displeasure when enumerators went to his office for the survey. Slamming officials, he said: "You are the ones who are doing these wrong things. Why is this being done? These caste equations are being done for Siddaramaiah's votes. Why is all this necessary?"

When asked whether he had benefitted from reservation, Somanna said: "You should ask all that to Siddaramaiah. I haven't got anything."

Tigress death: Four more arrested

HANUR (CHAMARAJANAGAR DIST), DHNS: Four more people have been arrested in connection with a tigress death at Hanur buffer range under Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary limits in Chamarajanagar.

The tigress was poisoned to death, severed into three parts and buried near Pachedoddi of Hanur range. Pachemallu, Ganesh, Govindegowda and Shampu were remanded in judicial custody. Probe revealed that the tigress was poisoned to death as it had killed and consumed a cow.

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Loving Family

Poor response from Lingayats, Vokkaligas worries caste leaders

They say it may lead to 'under-representation'

CASTE CENSUS CONUNDRUM

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Lingayat and Vokkaliga leaders are concerned about the lack of enthusiasm from their communities for the ongoing social and educational survey, fearing it may lead to "under-representation" of their numbers again.

The All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha, the Rajya Vokkaliagara Sangha and the Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha had approached the High Court against the survey.

Though the court didn't stay the survey, it pointed out that the survey was not compulsory.

Following the High Court's ruling not to make the survey compulsory, there seems to be less enthusiasm amongst dominant communities to participate in the survey.

The Brahmana Mahasabha had said there is "very little trust" that Brahmins will receive any benefit, while BJP leaders from the Brahmin community like Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya had said they wouldn't participate in it. The BJP hasn't taken an official stand against participating in the survey and has instead left it to the discretion of the people.

As per the leaked findings of the Jayaprakash Hegde report based on the 2015 survey, Scheduled Castes (SC) were found to be the most populous community with 1.09 crore (18%) population, followed by Muslims – 75.25 lakh (12%), Lingayats 66.35 lakh (11%) and Vokkaligas 61.58 lakh (10%).

Lingayats and Vokkaligas had dubbed the Kantharaj Commission's survey as "unscientific" and accused it of "undercounting" their numbers.

Community leaders feel the lukewarm response from their communities may again lead to "underrepresentation."

All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha general secretary Renuka Prasanna and Rajya Vokkaligara Sangha President Kenchappa Gowda told *DH* that they were urging their fellow community members to participate without fail.

"This is a census and not a survey. So, even if the entire population isn't covered, the government can extrapolate their numbers and provide reservations. Thus, it's very important for all our community members to participate," Prasanna said.

Gowda explained that the lack of enthusiasm amongst Vokkaligas was due to a feeling of dissatisfaction about their current share of the reservation. The Vokkaligas come under category 3A, which has 4% reservation.

"They are not enthusiastic because they feel the 4% reservation is not sufficient for the community. But we have told everyone from our community to enumerate themselves as Vokkaligas, mentioning sub-caste is up to them. The government is doing this and we must cooperate."

Gowda also explained that they would create awareness through media.

New survey being done as earlier one was opposed, says DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said on Sunday that the social and educational survey was being conducted owing to the opposition for the previous exercise.

"There's no meaning in opposing the survey. They said the census (sic) was wrong. That's why we are giving another chance for everyone to participate," he told reporters here.

This is at variance with CM Siddaramaiah's official stance that the current survey is being conducted as it had been 10 years since the previous one by the H Kantharaj-led backward classes commission.

Responding to Union Minister Somanna expressing objections to the survey, the deputy chief minister explained that the court had itself clarified that people need not answer certain questions if they don't want.

Shivakumar reiterated his statement that "too many" questions were being asked.

"I have told the officers not to ask about hens, goats, gold and all. Those are all personal things. I have advised that there's no need to ask about how many watches and fridges are there. They (backward classes commission) are independent. Let them do what they want."

However, senior Congress leader and Guarantees Implementation Authority chairman H M Revanna explained that information on livestock was necessary. "A farmer cannot lead his life just based on what produce he gets from the land. Sheep are called walking bank. If that information is obtained, won't that help them? Hen and sheep are indicative of financial conditions."

The survey currently has 60 main questions and 20 sub-questions.

The previous Kantharaj commission's survey had 55 main questions.

Former Backward Classes Commission chairman C S Dwarakanath, who is also the chairman of the social justice wing of the Congress, explained that the questionnaire was first prepared during his term in 2008-09.

"We gathered around 200 ethnographers, intellectuals, economists and social scientists and conducted a three-day workshop in Hampi University to prepare the questionnaire of 55 questions. Kantharaj Commission used the same."

POPULAR PACHYDERMS

People take pictures on their phones of the Dasara elephants bound for their respective forest camps on lorries after a 62-day stay on the hallowed precincts of the Mysuru palace on Sunday. Trained like soldiers in uniform, the Abhimanyu-led herd of 14 jumbos performed their Jamboo Savari roles to perfection, much to the joy of everyone. The pachyderms will now get back to the rigours of the jungles, in operations to rescue elephants and tigers and other tasks.

State Film Awards for 2021: Rakshit Shetty best actor, Archana Jois best actress

BENGALURU, DHNS: "Doddahatti Boregowda" has been adjudged as the Best Film, Rakshit Shetty the Best Actor for his performance "777 Charlie" and Archana Jois the Best Actress for her role in "Mute" in the State Film Awards for 2021.

Rakshit Shetty-starrer "777 Charlie," written and directed by Kiranraj K, is the second best film of 2021 and "Bisilu Kudure" the third best film.

"Yuvarathnaa," starring the late Puneeth Rajkumar, has been adjudged the best popular film and "Bharata Prajegalada Naavu" has been chosen for the award of film with 'Special Social Concerns'.

Director Kishore Moodabidri's "Cake" has been chosen as the Best Children's Film.

Actor Umashree has been adjudged the Best Supporting Actress and Pramod the Best Supporting Actor for their performances in "Rathnana Prapancha".

Master Athish Shetty and Baby Bhairavi have been chosen for the Best Child Actor and Best Child Actress awards for their performance in "Cake" and "Bhairavi," respectively.

Aneesh Keshava Rao and Sahana M Bharadwaj have been adjudged the best male and female playback singers for their rendering of "Ramadootana Pada" in "Sri Jagannatha Dasaru" and "Mugile Maataadu" in "Dandi," respectively.

Kodava film "Nada Peda Asha" has won the Best Regional Language Film award.

Daali Dhananjaya-starrer "Badava Rascal" has been chosen for the "Best Debut Film By A Director" award. The film's Director, Shankar H, will be presented with a silver medal and Rs 50,000 in cash.

Best Film "Doddahatti Boregowda" director Raghu K M has been chosen for the HLN Simha Award carrying a gold medal and Rs one lakh in cash. The producer, K M Lokesh, Rajarajeshswari Combines, gets the KCN Gowda award with Rs one lakh in cash and a gold medal. Raghu has also been chosen for the Best Script award for "Doddahatti Boregowda."

Veteran litterateur Baraguru Ramachandrappa (Best Dialogue in "Thayi Kastur Gandhi"), Manjunath Muniyappa (Best Story in "9 Sullu Kathegalu"), Bhuvanesh Prabhu (Best Photography in Konkani film "Amma Samsara"), Imtiyaz Sultan (Best Music Direction in "Bisilu Kudure"), Prateek Shetty (Best Editing in "777 Charlie"), Ravi Santehaklu (Best Art Direction in "Bhajarangi-2") and Nagarjuna Sharma (Best lyricist for his song "Madilinalli Kadalinashtu Hanigaliddaru" in "777 Charlie"), are the other award winners.

The judges' special award goes to "Bhairavi" (Special Film), Yogi Raju (for costume designing in "Bharajrangi-2") and Shivakumar (Make-up in "Thayi Kastur Gandhi").

Corrigendum

In the news report, 'Dollu adjudged best film in revised film awards list for 2021', published in these columns on Sunday, the details of several award-winning movies and individuals were incorrectly mentioned inadvertently. We regret the errors. The report has been withdrawn, and a corrected version on the State Film Awards for 2021 is being published today. —*Editor*

KMC-RI bans cough syrup for children below 2 years

HUBBALLI, DHNS

Following reports that children in Rajasthan and MP allegedly died after consuming cough syrup, the KMC-RI Hospital in Hubballi has stopped prescribing cough syrup to kids below two years of age.

As a precautionary measure, the hospital administration has instructed pediatricians not to prescribe or administer any company's syrup to children under the age of two under any circumstances.

Dr S N Honakeri

"We have not recorded any cases in our hospital where children developed complications due to cough syrup consumption. But as a precaution, we have stopped giving syrup to kids below two years. Pediatricians have been directed to prescribe only tablets," said KMC-RI Medical Superintendent Dr Eshwar Hasabi.

"Parents bringing children suffering from cold, fever, and cough to city clinics, private or government hospitals are requesting doctors to prescribe tablets only. Even adults are hesitant to consume syrups. Incidents in Rajasthan and MP have created fear among them. The government should take steps to create awareness," said a pediatrician.

District Health Officer S N Honakeri said the health department had not issued any order on prescribing cough syrup to kids. but, some hospitals have voluntarily stopped giving it to kids, he added.

Sanjay Mudgal, drug controller of Dharwad, said, "Coldrif syrup, reportedly linked to deaths of children, is not being supplied to government hospitals in Karnataka. Inspections have been carried out to check whether it is sold in private pharmacies, and it was found that it's not available. If it is found at any point, instructions have been issued to ensure it is not sold.

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Heavy rains, price slump push onion growers to the brink

Many farmers in Mumbai K'taka leaving yield to rot in field

SHRINIDHI R
DHARWAD, DHNS

A farmer from Chigateri in Harapanahalli taluk, Vijayanagar district destroys onions cultivated on 12 acres using a tractor, following a sharp decline in price and quality of bulbs. DH PHOTO

Onion is the latest among the kharif crops to be damaged due to extreme rainfall in North Karnataka. Continuous rains and fungal blight have wiped out over 50% of the crop in Kittur Karnataka region and parts of Vijayanagar and Ballari districts.

In a double blow to farmers, in many APMC markets, local onions are not finding any takers as they lack size and quality. The harvested crop has suffered quality deterioration, dragging down prices. At Hubballi APMC, one of the biggest markets for onion, local produce is sold at Rs 500 to Rs 1,350 per quintal, while Pune onions fetch Rs 800–Rs 1,900 per quintal. The prices for the local variety were at Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000 per quintal during the corresponding time, last year.

Farmers in Mumbai-Karnataka region and parts of Vijayanagar and Ballari, who had already suffered heavy crop losses of green gram, black gram and soya due to excessive rains, are now grappling with another crisis.

Onion crops have been badly hit, and prices have crashed. In many APMC markets, local onions are finding no takers as they lack size and quality.

Onion is widely cultivated in Dharwad, Belagavi, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Haveri, Gadag, Chitradurga, Ballari and Koppal districts, with Hubballi APMC being the main market. Though arrivals have begun, the sudden price collapse has left growers in distress.

In Dharwad, onions were grown on 6,300 hectares this year. Continuous rains and fungal blight wiped out over 50% of the crop, while the rest suffered quality deterioration, dragging down prices.

Local produce has been affected by 'majige roga,' twister disease and decay, while onions from Pune set price benchmark. Farmers are struggling to cover even production costs.

Siddalingappa, a farmer from Donni in Gadag's Mundargi taluk, said, "I cultivated onions on 1.5 acres, spending Rs 70,000. The rains destroyed much of the crop and I harvested only 58 bags, selling them for Rs 25,000. I haven't even recovered my sowing and labour costs."

The story is the same across Vijayapura, Bagalkot and Gadag districts. In Gadag alone, onions were grown on 14,000 hectares, but crops on 4,000 hectares were lost to rains. Bagalkot too reported damages on over 3,000 hectares, while in Vijayanagar, 108.59 hectares of onion have been lost.

Farmer Somappa said, "Earlier, I cultivated 50–60 acres of onion, but repeated price crashes forced me to scale down. This year, I grew on just two acres, spending Rs 70,000 on inputs. Harvest was due in 2 weeks, but prices have already fallen." Several farmers have left harvested onions to rot in the fields.

Onion trader Nagaraj said local first-grade onions are priced at Rs 700 to Rs 1,200 per quintal, second grade at Rs 500 to Rs 700, and third grade onions are priced a meagre Rs 200–Rs 400. In contrast, Nashik and Pune onions fetch Rs 1,200–Rs 1,600.

"Earlier, onions from this region were supplied to Maharashtra, West Bengal, Delhi, Srinagar, Hyderabad and Tamil Nadu. But this year, these states themselves have had good harvest," Hubballi APMC officials said.

Harapanahalli farmer destroys 12 acres of onion

A farmer from Chigateri in Harapanahalli taluk, Vijayanagar district, has destroyed onion crop cultivated on 12 acres following a price slump and rapid decline in yield quality.

Farmer D Ramanagouda has cultivated onion on 15 acres hoping for a good yield and price. But the price slumped just when his crop was ready to harvest. He left the produce in the field hoping that the prices would recover. The incessant rain, however, dashed his hopes as the crop started to rot due to high amount of moisture in soil. The hapless farmer got his yield destroyed using tractors. He demanded the state government to provide adequate compensation to onion farmers.

Congress charts revival action plan in UP

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Meetings with castes and communities, contesting the upcoming MLC elections in teachers' and graduate constituencies, fielding candidates in large numbers in the local body elections, and appointing 19.78 lakh office bearers at the grassroots level by December-end are part of an action plan drawn up by the Congress to revive the party in Uttar Pradesh.

The main aim of these moves is to make the Congress battle-ready for the 2027 Assembly elections while identifying potential leaders at the grassroots to face the challenges posed by the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government in a state where the party has been relegated to an almost insignificant player.

One of the immediate tasks identified is to organise theme-based meetings with leaders, opinion makers and influencers in castes and communities, including minorities as well as professional groups such as lawyers. "We are holding such meetings in October–November," Congress General Secretary and UP in-charge Avinash Pande told *DH*.

Such meetings will target Jats, Gurjars, Passis, Nishads, Lodhis and upper castes among others, where party leaders will interact with community leaders and influencers.

The first is expected to be a 'Kisan Sammelan' on October 14 in Muzaffarnagar in western UP, where Jats, predominantly farmers, are an influential section.

Following state-level meetings, the party is also planning similar deliberations at the district level.

Congress lost its influence in the state following the rise of 'mandal' and 'kamandal' politics in the 1990s, as several caste groups shifted to the Samajwadi Party, BSP and BJP.

The party now believes it could benefit from the acceptability of Rahul Gandhi, who has been espousing a social justice and anti-communal plank.

At the organisational level, the party is in overdrive to induct as many leaders as possible. Pande said that by December, they plan to appoint 19.78 lakh office bearers at the state, district, block, mandal and booth levels in a five-tier system.

While the appointment process in around 8,000 mandals is underway, he added, the appointment of office bearers and Booth Level Agents in around 1.62 lakh booths is also in the offing.

As part of the organisation-building exercise, the party has also decided to contest the MLC elections to 11 graduate and teachers' seats, as well as the local body elections, which it views as a "semifinal" for the 2027 polls. The plan is to contest all seats in 57,961 panchayats, 826 blocks and around 3,500 seats in 75 district panchayats.

"We have started the preparations. Training programmes are on," Pande said.

Though local body polls are not fought on political lines, parties view them as an opportunity to test their strength at the grassroots by fielding local leaders. The Congress has so far not given much importance to MLC or local body elections, leaving the space open for rivals, including allies.

"This was a missing link. There were not many grassroots leaders in the party. We gain local leaders through local body polls," a senior leader said.

In addition, the state Congress unit has started mapping localities to organise programmes.

Data of places with weekly markets and 'melas' has been prepared at the local level so that these areas can be targeted for outreach. The party is also reaching out to families of freedom fighters, the leader added.

Flooding now, drought in summer: Extremes of Bhima basin

Lack of storage infra here, 'illegal dams' in Maha blamed for situation

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS

Severe floods have become a regular occurrence along River Bhima in Kalaburagi and its neighbouring districts.

Strangely though, villages on the banks of the river in Kalyana Karnataka region become parched every summer, forcing the government to make unheeded pleas to Maharashtra to release 15 tmc ft of water as per the Bachavat Commission's order.

People in the region point out the absence of adequate infrastructure to store water, while the neighbouring state has constructed barrages and implemented irrigation projects.

Experts say the region lacks dams, barrages and lakes to store the water.

All 11 dams in Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Bidar districts have a total storage capacity of 24.721 tmc ft. The government has not yet completed the project to lift Bhima river water to Amarja barrage, to fill lakes in Afzalpur and Aland taluks.

Sub-canals

Irrigation expert Bhimashetty Mukka laments the absence of sub-canals and distributor canals, depriving farmers of water for several decades now.

Bhima river, which originates in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, flows for 861 km through Karnataka and parts of Telangana, before joining Krishna river in Raichur district.

A house is marooned due to floods in River Bhima at Mandarawada village in Jewargi taluk of Kalaburagi district. DH FILE PHOTO

Farmer leaders say increasing the storage capacity of barrages and lakes will facilitate utilisation of more water.

This will help bring more than 2 lakh hectares of farmland under irrigation apart from supplying adequate drinking water to several villages and towns in summer.

"Last year, around 480 tmc of water flowed into Bhima river without being stored for later use. This year, people faced the worst flood situation as more than 1,000 tmc ft of water flowed in the river, due to early start of monsoon in May. Therefore, increasing the storage capacity through construction of more lakes will help groundwater recharge. But the government has failed to take steps for the construction of water storage infrastructure, besides reviving existing lakes," said JD(S) leader Shivakumar Natikar.

District incharge Minister Priyank Kharge said the government had been pursuing the issue of illegal irrigation projects (dams) built in Maharashtra and steps would be taken to fight a legal battle against it, after consulting the advocate general.

He charged that the flood situation had worsened due to sudden release of water by Maharashtra from its reservoirs without prior intimation to officials in Karnataka.

"Maharashtra has built irrigation projects to store around 50 tmc of additional water. The government there is trying to legalise these projects and we have been vehemently opposing it. It lies about water shortage in its dams and is reluctant to release our share during summer. We will take up the issue seriously at a higher level. The Solapur-Vijayapura national highway witnessed unprecedented flooding this year as Sina river got so much water due to the illegal irrigation projects," the minister said.

RAIN TRAVAILS

The Fishline area in Kolar Gold Fields is inundated following heavy rains in the early hours of Sunday. Rainwater gushed into houses damaging household articles. Kalaburagi also received rains after a gap of five days. DH PHOTO

Greens raise stink over 'spraying female urine method' to capture leopards

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

The Raichur forest officials are using a worrying method — spraying of female scent (urine)— to attract leopards, capture and translocate them.

Experts say shifting a predator from its natural habitat itself is wrong, as it adversely impacts ecological balance, while highlighting the unscientific method being used.

A Raichur-based researcher, who had earlier worked with the department to mitigate human-animal conflict, says it is using this "unscientific" method in and around the natural habitats of leopards as the big cats have been lifting cattle and stray dogs from human settlements.

He says all four leopards that were captured by the department near Maliyabad, Manvi and surrounding natural habitats in Raichur district in recent times were snared through the method of spraying scent.

Officials collect urine of captive female leopards from the zoo and spray it near the cage and the animal path to lure the leopard to the cage.

"Not all leopards in and around Maliyabad and surrounding areas are cattle lifters. There is sufficient prey-base like wild-boar, peacocks, hares and smaller mammals inside the hills and forest patches for survival of leopards. By spraying scent, you are also drawing non-conflict leopards to human habitats," the researcher says.

Forest officials say it had become necessary for them to 'rescue' the leopards as they had turned cattle lifters.

Raichur has one of the least presence of leopards in Karnataka. Wildlife experts believe that less than five or six leopards are roaming in hillocks and scrub forest patches of Maliyabad, D-Rampura, Manvi and nearby places.

"In the last four years, there hasn't been a single report of leopard killing or harming humans in Raichur. On the contrary, last year more than hundred people stoned and caned to death a male leopard that had strayed into a village near Devadurga," said the researcher, requesting anonymity.

He says there have been incidents where male leopards have sat next to the cages (sprayed with female scent) for weeks, expecting a female for mating.

"This method can create a conflict, where none exists," said the researcher.

Conservation biologist Sanjay Gubbi says his team's work in 13 reserved forests in Raichur division has shown that leopard numbers in Raichur are extremely low.

"Ex-gratia should be paid at the earliest with regard to conflict due to livestock killing. However, capturing and translocation of leopards is not a solution as it will shift the conflict from one place to another. If translocation continues, Raichur will see enhanced human-leopard conflict, like it is happening in places where such large-scale translocations are happening," he said.

He said awareness campaigns among communities about human-leopard conflict and the negative issues related to translocation have to be undertaken at the earliest.

Raichur Deputy Conservator of Forests Suresh Babu acknowledged that there had been no reports of leopards attacking humans, but denied that the scent spraying method was used to capture leopards.

"The four leopards that were captured had turned cattle lifters. To mitigate conflict, we had to capture them. The last leopard that was captured was next to a primary school," he said. Babu said translocation was the last resort for department officials in mitigating human-animal conflict.

Writer Prof Mogalli Ganesh dead

HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGAR DISTRICT), DHNS: Writer Prof Mogalli Ganesh, 64, passed away at his house in the city on Sunday morning. He is survived by his wife and three daughters.

He served as a professor in Hampi University for 26 years and was also in charge of the Folk Studies department. He retired on June 30, 2024.

Mogalli Ganesh.

He has published 9 story collections, 7 novels, 18 books on culture, 2 poetry collections, 4 dramas, 1 essay compilation, and published 6 edited collections. He has also published 10 books related to folklore studies.

The final rites were conducted by the family members at Madanayakanahalli in Mandya district on Sunday evening.

He was born at Santamogenahalli in Channapatna taluk in 1962. He studied economics and folklore. His deep love towards the native culture made him an excellent story writer and critic. His 'Buguri,' 'Nannajjanigondaseyittu,' 'Ondu Haleya Chaddi,' and other stories have been identified as the best short stories of Kannada. Four of his stories have won in the Prajavani story competition.

His poetry collection is "Sooryanannu Bacchidabahude?". Ganesh's major novels include 'Thottilu' and 'Kireeta.' His notable essay collection is 'Kathana.' His important critical works include 'Sollu' and 'Vimarshe'. His column 'Vishleshane' is quite popular.

The novel 'Thottilu' was selected for a translation award at the University of California and has been translated into English under the title 'The Cradle.'

His 'Nanna Kathegalu' has been translated into Spanish, English, German, and Polish and into all major Indian languages.

Mogalli has received many awards, including Masti award, Doordarshan 'Chandana' Award, Delhi's National 'Samskruti' Award and Karnataka Sahitya Akademi Honorary award.

20 killed in Darjeeling landslides

Landslides, from Page 1

"There have been reports of worrying damages and losses, particularly in Mirik, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Matigara and Alipurduar."

The IMD has forecast continued downpour in the north Bengal districts, at least till Monday.

The NDRF has deployed three teams for rescue operations in Mirik. Two more teams are being moved, NDRF DIG Mohsen Shahedi said.

The Indian Army also deployed personnel to help the state administration.

Mirik in the Darjeeling district was the worst affected, with at least 11 people killed in landslides.

At least seven people were killed in Darjeeling. The death toll may go beyond 20 when reports from all places will come in, a state government official said.

Gautam Deb, a leader of the ruling Trinamool Congress and mayor of Siliguri Municipal Corporation, said the PWD was constructing a temporary bridge to restore connectivity.

Raju Bista, BJP's Darjeeling MP, said a large number of homes had been damaged.

Rajesh Kumar Yadav, the police chief of north Bengal, said that rescue operations were currently continuing. "Normalcy is slowly returning. Some of the affected routes have been reopened," he said.

Rajarshi Sen, an IT professional who went from Kolkata to Kalimpong to spend the Durga Puja vacation with is family, narrated his harrowing experience.

"We were staying in a homestay. The lightning and the incessant heavy rains throughout the night were very scary. Though we would have stayed a few more days, we did not want to take the risk, managed a local cab and left early in the morning. After several detours, somehow we reached Siliguri around 8 pm," he said over the phone.

TN moves SC against Kalaignar varsity bill being sent to Prez

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Tamil Nadu has filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court challenging the Governor's decision to reserve the Kalaignar University Bill 2025 to the President instead of giving assent to it as advised by the state council of ministers.

The Bill looks to establish a university in Kumbakonam named after former chief minister M Karunanidhi by bifurcating Bharathidasan University, which will cater to the higher education needs of students in four districts: Ariyalur, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, and Tiruvarur.

The proposed varsity sought to make CM its chancellor. The President may either give her assent to the Bill, withhold it, or return it for the Assembly's reconsideration.

In its plea settled by senior advocate P Wilson and filed through Misha Rohatgi Mohta, the state contended that the Governor's decision was illegal and patently unconstitutional for being violative of Articles 163(1) and 200 of the Constitution.

The state sought a direction from the court to call for the records pertaining to the July 14 letter and to quash it as arbitrary, illegal, and a mala fide exercise of power and unconstitutional.

It also asked the court to issue an order for the return of the Kalaignar University Bill, and it being placed before the Governor for consideration as per Article 200 in accordance with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, as contained in the note for circulation on May 2.

In April 2025, a two-judge bench invoked the power under Article 142 of the Constitution to declare the deeming of assent to the 10 bills passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly and kept pending by the Governor. It fixed a three-month timeline to clear subsequent Bills.

In May, a Presidential reference was made, invoking powers under Article 143(1), to know from the top court whether timelines could be imposed by judicial orders for the exercise of the President's discretion while dealing with Bills passed by state Assemblies. The five-judge bench reserved its opinion in the matter.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at one or two places over the state.
Forecast Oct 6: Partly cloudy sky. Light to moderate rain/ thundershowers very likely.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	28.2	19.2	0.0
Bidar	32.0	21.2	39.6
Vijayapura	31.5	21.0	0.0
Dharwad	30.4	--	0.0
Haveri	31.2	20.6	0.0
Kalaburagi	32.6	23.4	tr
Raichur	31.8	23.0	0.0
COASTAL			
Honnavar	31.2	25.0	0.0
Karwar	32.6	24.4	0.0
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	30.9	23.6	0.0

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	0.0
Bengaluru	26.0	21.5	0.8
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	31.0	20.3	0.5
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	30.5	20.4	0.0
Davangere	31.0	20.5	0.0
Hassan	28.9	NA	0.0
Mysuru	32.4	20.0	0.0
Madikeri	--	--	--
Kolar	27.8	18.6	18.6
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	29.0	23.0	NIL
Kolkata	30.0	26.0	NIL
Mumbai	28.0	26.0	NA
Chennai	32.0	27.0	NA
Pune	29.0	20.0	NA
Hyderabad	29.0	23.0	NA
Th'puram	33.0	26.0	NIL

B'luru scientist & team pave way for 'unhackable'...

Cyber security, from Page 1

"For data security, you cannot rely on these. Which is where quantum random number generators come in. Here, quantum mechanics is used in its inherent unpredictability to generate these random numbers. However, these are all device-dependent random numbers, and this comes with its limitations as it suffers from the same fallacies the device suffers from. Plus, a device can be tampered with by a third party. Our research focuses on a device-independent random number generator to enable certified quantum randomness," explained Urbasi Sinha, head of the Quantum Information and Computing (QuIC) lab at the RRI.

While such certified quantum randomness has been achieved before, the scientists here used a new approach to simplify the process. This was achieved by using the mathematical concept of the Leggett-Garg inequality, instead of Bell's inequality.

The researchers showed that certified quantum randomness could be realised on a general-purpose quantum computer available through the cloud and does not need elaborate optical tables or specialised labs.

"This is a game-changer as it shows that even today's noisy and small-scale quantum processors can deliver a resource as fundamental as certified randomness. Quantum and quantum-enabled security is going to be our next frontier. This research will broaden the scope of what quantum computers are capable of," Sinha added. The team's research has been published in the journal Frontiers in Quantum Science and Technology.

K'taka to pioneer in affordable...

Aero sports, from Page 1

The programme will be undertaken under public-private partnership (PPP). While the private partner will provide training, the government will provide the necessary infrastructure at Jakkur aerodrome.

In the initial phase, pilots will be trained in paramotoring, hot air balloon, powered hang glider and parasailing.

The department is awaiting approvals from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and other clearances to begin the process.

An adventure sport enthusiast who has worked closely with mountaineering clubs said even basic training abroad would cost at least Rs 3 lakh.

"Just one ride costs Rs 70,000. Imagine how expensive the training would be. If the government introduces such programmes, it will definitely be a boon for adventure enthusiasts and make the sports affordable for the general public," said Varun M, an adventure enthusiast, who is a part of many adventure sport clubs.

Cough syrup deaths: MP cops...

Cough syrup, from Page 1

A special team from Kotwali police arrested Dr Soni late Saturday night.

The doctor has been booked for negligence and prescribing the medicine even after its adverse effects on children for nearly a month. The manufacturer had been charged as it was supplying contaminated syrup, as per the test report.

The government on Sunday also suspended Dr Soni from service.

The doctor and the company have been charged under sections 276 (adulteration of drugs — punishable with up to one year in jail) and 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder — carrying a maximum punishment of 10 years) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

They have also been booked under section 27A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, which prescribes over 10 years' imprisonment or life term for using adulterated drugs causing death, according to police.

The Tamil Nadu drug control authorities, in their report dated October 2, declared the Coldrif syrup sample (Batch No SR-13; Mfg: May 2025; Exp: April 2027) manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceuticals, Kancheepuram, as adulterated because it contained diethylene glycol (48.6% w/v), a poisonous substance "which may render the contents injurious to health".

The Tamil Nadu government on Friday banned Coldrif following reports of deaths in Madhya Pradesh and at least three similar fatalities in Rajasthan due to suspected kidney infections.

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bangalore – 560064
TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/PCEE/S&T/TD/2025-26/01
Dated:29/09/2025

E-TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** (Works)

Tender No.: RWF/PCEE/S&T/TD/2025-26/01, Dtd.:29/09/2025, **Name of the work :** Supply, Installation & Commissioning of CCTV cameras at Main Receiving Station (MRS), other Substations, East & West Colony at RWF, Yelahanka, Bengaluru–560064. **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 72,08,691/-, **Bid Security:** Rs. 1,44,200/-, **Date & Time of Closing of Tenders :** 27/10/2025, 15:00 Hrs. This tender notice and eligibility criteria can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in.** Any corrigendum/ Extension will be available on RWF and ireps websites.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

No. CEE/Tr(O)ZB/SEE(O)/AEE-3/F-314(1)/2025-26/6079-80 **Date: 04.10.2025**

KPTCL invites bid against the Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/PTK-23** for "Erection of additional 2 Nos. of 11kV MCVCB switchgear feeder panels for bifurcation of 11kV feeders at **66/11kV Peresandra sub-station** in Operation Division, Gowribidanur on Partial Turnkey Basis including supply of all matching materials/equipments (excluding supply of 11kV switchgear), erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing & commissioning".

The bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging into **KPP Portal website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **10.10.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer(Elec.,),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560009

DECCAN HERALD
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Course-corrected SIR holds invaluable lessons

The controversial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar has come to an end with some conclusions that will be debated for their implications and lessons about how such an exercise should not be conducted. The final list published by the Election Commission has 7.42 crore voters, about 6% less than the 7.89 crore in June. About 65 lakh voters were removed from the draft list since they were either absent, had moved, or were dead. The list, published on August 1, had 7.24 crore voters on it. Out of them, 3.66 lakh were found ineligible and therefore removed, and 21.53 lakh new names were added. It might be argued that the final outcome does not validate the fears and apprehensions about the exercise. But a more correct argument would be that the pressure exerted on the Commission in various ways saved the exercise and its outcome from being vitiated by its process.

It was the campaign launched by the Opposition parties, the engagement of civil society and its organisations, the unflagging monitoring of the media, and above all, crucial interventions made by the Supreme Court that limited the potential for damage of the exercise. The very timing of SIR was questionable as it was sought to be done too close to the Assembly elections, leaving little time and scope for it to be fairly conducted and mistakes to be corrected. Some important ideas came up with the court's intervention, which should be considered a lesson to guide future exercises. No one disputed the Commission's power to conduct SIR but it had to be done fairly and transparently. Maximum inclusion should be the aim of the exercise and not exclusion and deletion, as in the original SIR plan. The voters should not be made to prove their citizenship. It is for the state to prove that a citizen is a voter, and she should not be burdened with that responsibility. The court's direction that Aadhaar should be used as a document made a big difference in a state where most documents prescribed by the Commission would have been difficult to procure for many voters.

Electoral rolls must be revised with fairness and transparency

The deletions, as seen in the final list, were mostly on account of death, migration and duplication. According to available data, there were not many foreigners and infiltrators on the rolls. That falsifies the much-touted claim that *ghuspatias* (infiltrators) are influencing the country's elections. The Bihar SIR experience shows how important democratic vigil is in protecting the citizen's rights against wrongful actions of even Constitutional bodies such as the Election Commission. The Commission should learn the right lessons from Bihar if it proposes to launch similar exercises elsewhere.

Distressing gaps in senior healthcare

Bengaluru, the Silicon City of India and one of the nation's highest revenue contributors, prides itself on being a hub of technology, innovation, and progress. But behind this glittering façade lies a distressing truth: the city's senior citizens, who once powered its growth, are being failed by an inadequate and indifferent public healthcare system. A recent survey by Akhila Karnataka Vayovruddara Okkuta (AIKYATA) exposes how the elderly are forced to run from pillar to post for even the most basic medical needs. The survey of 13 public health facilities exposes serious shortcomings in accessibility. Many Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Namma Clinics are hard to locate, sometimes situated on upper floors or equipped with steep, unusable ramps. For senior citizens, especially those from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, and retired informal workers, these are not mere inconveniences but daily obstacles to survival.

The findings on Namma Clinics are particularly troubling. While some provide free medicines for chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, supplies often last only 15 days. Requests for a month's stock are usually ignored, leading to erratic treatment that can worsen existing conditions. While some localities are overcrowded with clinics, others have none at all, exposing a serious planning gap. The government's push for digitisation, though well-intentioned, has added to the hardships. The QR code-based registration and Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) systems often create long queues and delays. Many seniors lack smartphones, Internet access, and the digital literacy to navigate multi-step logins and OTPs. AIKYATA's team found patients waiting for up to 90 minutes just to get a token—a needless indignity for those in their twilight years. Equally disturbing are allegations that BPL cardholders are being asked to pay bribes ranging from Rs 250 to Rs 1,500 to obtain age or disability certificates necessary for the paltry Rs 1,200 monthly pension. This is both unethical and inhuman.

A survey in Bengaluru reveals how our systems are failing our elders

During their prime, the elderly have made significant contributions to the city's growth. They deserve dignity, not neglect. The government must urgently address the gaps identified in the AIKYATA report. This includes compulsory geriatric training for healthcare staff, home-based care, evening OPDs, accessible infrastructure, and coordinated action among various departments. A city's progress is not measured merely by its skyline or digital sophistication, but also by how it treats its most vulnerable. A society that forgets its elders loses its moral compass. Bengaluru must not abandon those who helped build its foundations. It owes them not just care, compassion, and respect, but also a commitment to make their final years secure, comfortable and dignified.

FOR SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY

India must embrace biotech

The critical technology is no longer just a background contributor to progress, but is poised to be a driver of economic growth

SHAMBHAVI NAIK

Human society now stands at a pivotal moment in its short evolutionary journey.

We face two stark choices: either dial back the production and comforts of modern life, or find new, cleaner ways of sustaining the same standard of living while preserving our home for our future generations. Framed this way, the rational choice is to innovate technologies that allow us to maintain prosperity without destroying the planet.

Yet economic and market forces, which often find economic downturns more catastrophic than an environmental collapse, are unlikely to support such technologies until disaster is upon us.

It is therefore the responsibility of governments, as guardians of society's long-term interests, to champion cleaner technologies, even when they might seem to be the costlier option.

Among critical technologies, biotechnology, often underappreciated in public policy, requires the greatest degree of state stewardship to realise its transformative potential.

It is important to shake off the notion that biotechnology is limited to pharmaceuticals and vaccines. At its core, biotechnology is the set of tools that allow us to understand and manipulate living organisms for desired purposes.

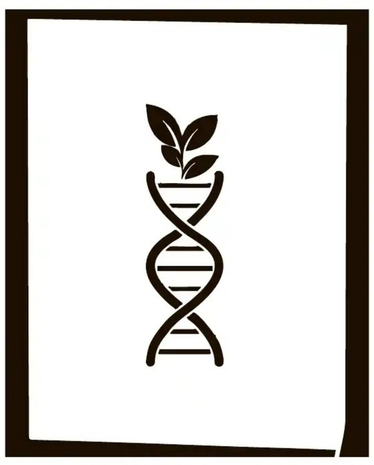
The applications are as varied as they are profound: microbes engineered to make better yoghurt or degrade plastic waste; crops bred to yield more food or capture more carbon; insects designed to resist pathogens or spin finer silk; and even humans whose genetic vulnerabilities can be corrected.

Such interventions give humanity unprecedented power, ranging from the capacity to wipe out species or revive extinct ones, to reshaping the very definition of what it means to be human. Coupled with artificial intelligence and robotics, biotechnology opens the door to futures where debates on rights and inclusion could extend to human–machine hybrids.

Whatever be the future, biotechnology is already shaping our daily lives. The rice fortified with vitamins, the cotton that resists bollworms, the drops that protect a child from polio are all products of biotechnology.

Biotech does not arrive with flashy gadgets; it slips into the ordinary and makes it extraordinary.

Petrochemicals, the backbone of modern industry, are themselves products of biology. Their replacements, be it biofuels or bioplastics, will also emerge from biology. So, too, will new carbon sinks, created through genetically modified plants and microorganisms, to repair the damage already caused to the atmosphere.



Biotechnology's importance extends even to the military, not in the form of bioweapons or fantastical super soldiers, but through practical support functions. It can enable local production of fuel to power tanks, the development of food that remains nutritious and easy to prepare at extreme Himalayan altitudes and the use of wearables and biosensors that provide soldiers with real-time health and environmental data from the field.

In the past few decades, biotechnology has graduated from an altruistic tool for social welfare to a technology crucial for our survival. But it offers the potential to do much more, becoming a driver for the economy and not just a silent contributor.

Reports suggest that over 60% of industrial products could be made using biotechnology, though technical difficulties need to be resolved. The global bioeconomy is already worth more than $4 trillion, with projections indicating substantial growth to $30 trillion by 2050, creating thousands of jobs in R&D, manufacturing and logistics.

However, making this shift to a bio-based economy will require imagination, strategy and the rethinking of even the most basic products—soaps, cement, fuels—through a biological lens.

This responsibility cannot be left to chance. Biotechnology needs careful stewardship from leaders who understand both the risks of tinkering with nature and the opportunities it offers.

India, with its rich biodiversity, strong research institutions and a pluralistic value system is uniquely placed to lead this transformation. Few nations have both the capability and the canvas that India does. The question is no longer whether biotechnology will define the future. The real question is whether India will lead that future, or be forced to follow.

Recent policy initiatives such as BioE3 and BioRIDE are encouraging signals, but they remain insufficient. To truly harness the potential of biotechnology, the government must embed it across sectors, with the Department of Biotechnology serving as the central coordinating body.

Today, the final products of biotechnology fall under the purview of multiple ministries—health, agriculture, petroleum—and without harmonisation of intent, the broader shift to a bio-based economy will remain fragmented.

In tandem with biotechnology, policy also has to graduate from promoting R&D and biomanufacturing to creating markets, both domestic and international.

Such market creation will attract capital, accelerate innovation and ensure sustained growth of the sector. Delay in governance is not without consequence; it risks India forfeiting intellectual property, market share and geopolitical advantage to more agile competitors.

Biotechnology is no longer just a background contributor to progress, it is poised to be a driver of economic growth, a foundation for national resilience and possibly the most important tool for reconciling prosperity with sustainability. India has both the capability and the moral imperative to lead.

The only question is whether it will continue to treat biotechnology as one-of-many technologies or recognise it as the unique force it is.

(The author is Chair, Advanced Biology Programme, Takshashila Institution)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The candy seed and the garden

My daughter's moment of innocence has blossomed into a lasting passion

DOLAN BARDHAN

When my daughter was a little over two, she spent most of her time with my father, who was a teacher at a government-aided high school. She imitated everything her grandfather did.

She inherited two good qualities from him. One was the habit of reading. She would sit by my father with books, magazines, newspapers, and even old almanacs for hours or scribble on papers with pens and pencils.

The second was gardening, my father's favourite hobby. He spent hours in his sprawling garden, planting saplings, sowing seeds of different kinds, and tending to them every morning and afternoon. He nurtured his plants daily --watering, weeding, and loosening the soil. My daughter followed him everywhere, sometimes getting in his way. But my father always encouraged her to take part in his gardening.

One day, I noticed she was alone in the garden, as my father had gone to the market. He had instructed her to water the plants with the garden hose. After a while, I found her absorbed in digging the soil with a small *khurpi* (a tool for loosening soil) and pouring water with deep concentration. I guessed she was imitating her grandfather but left her alone lest she trouble me in his absence.

After a couple of hours, my father returned. No sooner had she seen him than she screamed with joy and ran towards him. She stammered, "Dada, Dada, I have sown a seed today." Holding his hand, she pulled him towards the spot where I had seen her digging earlier.

My father was overwhelmed with joy to hear that the little one had sown a seed by herself. He lifted her in his arms and went to the spot, with me following behind. There was a small heap of soil, still wet. My daughter pointed to it with her tiny hand. We were convinced she had sown a seed.

Eager to know what she had planted, I gently brushed aside some soil --and our wonder knew no bounds when, instead of a seed, a candy in a laminated wrapper emerged from beneath the soil. My little daughter, in her innocent mind, was somehow convinced that whatever was buried in the soil would someday grow into a plant bearing its own fruits.

We burst out laughing, and she clapped in delight. I was about to throw away the candy, but my father stopped me. He covered it again with soil, and every morning after that, my daughter would water the spot and check whether her candy tree had sprouted.

My father is no more, but gardening remains my daughter's favourite pastime. She is now in class nine and often thinks of her grandfather. If he were alive, he would surely be happy to see mangoes, chikoos, and jamuns hanging from the trees she has planted herself.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Poll-bound Bihar shows *revdi* is here to stay

Just ahead of the Bihar elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a host of populist initiatives totalling Rs 62,000 crore for the state, many of which are immediate and future direct cash transfers with no repayment obligation by beneficiaries. Although the Election Commission's model code of conduct, which prohibits such poll-eve declarations, has yet to come into effect pending the announcement of the poll schedule, the timing and scale of these schemes are clearly designed to entice people to vote for the NDA. With the ruling NDA controlling state and central finances, it can implement any number of schemes to sway voters, distorting the level playing field essential to a free and fair election. This move contradicts Modi's long-standing opposition to the country's *revdi* culture. His big-ticket announcements for Bihar reveal his inconsistency on the matter.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

Grassroots change

The announcement of Rs 62,000 crore in development projects for Bihar signals progress, yet promises alone cannot transform lives. While infrastructure may improve, will governance, transparency, and local empowerment follow? Without citizen engagement and ethical oversight, project shells will stand while communities wait. Ambition is commendable, but implementation defines legacy. Bihar's youth, farmers, and marginalised deserve more than announcements—they deserve measurable change. Is development merely a headline, or will it translate into daily improvements for citizens?

Mohammad Hasnain, Muzaffarpur

A star fades

Apropos 'An eminent journalist, T J S George passes away' (Oct 4), Indian journalism has lost a dazzling star with the passing away of T J S George, leaving a wide void that is hard to fill. George was a well-known journalist and an exceptional, highly respected editor, whose powerful writings are a guiding light for present-day journalists and future generations. His literary and journalistic works are a legacy for those with a keen interest in journalism. George's name will be etched in golden letters in the pages of Indian journalism history.

H Narayanan, Bengaluru

Interesting idea

Apropos 'Govt studying if competitive tests and curriculum can be aligned' (Oct 3), the proposal to link competitive tests for JEE/NEET with school curricula is an interesting idea. It could help students prepare better for competitive exams and create a level playing field for aspirants from state boards. It is essential to study the pros and cons of such changes to curricula lest they burden students further.

A K Shariff, Mysuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

This is the golden era of politics. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a *karmayogi*, and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is a *janyogi*. This is a government of *yogis*, not pretenders. The government ensures everyone's security and trust, and by 2047, India and Uttar Pradesh will become developed.

Dharampal Singh, Uttar Pradesh Minister

There are no saints in politics...

Ken Follett

TO BE PRECISE

The new label

IN PERSPECTIVE

Governing the Blue Commons

As India drafts its BBNJ law, simplicity, equity, and global credibility ought to shape how it safeguards ocean commons

SOURABH ROY

The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), adopted in 2023, marks a major step in global ocean governance. For the first time, States agreed on rules to conserve and share the resources of the high seas, which make up nearly two-thirds of the world's oceans and lie beyond national borders.

The BBNJ Agreement covers four broad areas: marine genetic resources, area-based management tools, environmental impact assessments, and capacity building. Of these, marine genetic resources (MGR) have drawn the sharpest debate. These include everything from microbes found at hydrothermal vents to deep-sea corals with compounds valuable to medicine, food security, and biotechnology. The central question is how to ensure that the benefits from these resources are shared fairly.

India signed the treaty in 2024 and has since set up a drafting committee under the Ministry of Earth Sciences to frame legislation governing high seas biodiversity. Such a law will shape how India participates in benefit-sharing, approaches conservation, and positions itself in international law. The stakes are high, as international law does not recognise domestic legislation as an excuse for failing to meet treaty obligations. The Permanent Court of International Justice made this clear in the Certain German Interests in Polish Upper Silesia case, stressing that a State cannot rely on its own domestic law to evade international responsibility. India's new law will thus be scrutinised abroad as evidence of compliance -- or non-compliance-- with the BBNJ Agreement.

India has some policy experience to draw on. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and subsequent Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) guidelines and regulations of 2014 and 2025, respectively, carry lessons. The 2014 guidelines were mired in a maze of percentages and approvals, making compliance difficult, enforcement weak, and disputes common. Though communities were promised the largest share of benefits, those promises often failed as the system became trapped in its own bureaucratic knots. The 2025 regulations corrected some of these flaws by introducing turnover-based slabs, explicitly covering digital sequence information (DSI), and digitising compliance mandates. But they also shifted power away from communities by giving regulators a larger role and reducing the share of direct benefits.

The lesson is that India's new law must avoid both extremes. Complexity, as seen in the 2014 guidelines, risks collapse; centralisation, as in the 2025 regulations, risks alienating intended beneficiaries. The law must therefore be simple, transparent, and fair -- addressing a few essential points.

Digital sequence information must be covered, since omitting it allows companies to patent discoveries and profit without contributing to the commons. Benefit-sharing should be clear and auditable, ideally with a single-slab contribution for high-value resources. Non-monetary benefits such as technology transfer, scholarships, and restoration projects may be more valuable for India than short-term financial gains. The law must also apply extraterritorially – covering Indian vessels, nationals, private enterprises, and universities abroad – to prevent loopholes and ensure adherence to the BBNJ Agreement.

Another question is who should benefit domestically. While the BBNJ Agreement creates a global pool, India must ensure that coastal communities, researchers, and conservation projects gain tangible benefits from participation.

Challenges remain. Fisheries are excluded from the treaty, leaving a major gap in biodiversity protection. Enforcement will also be difficult across vast ocean areas, especially given overlapping treaties and the principle of flag-state jurisdiction. Geopolitical disputes, such as those highlighted in the South China Sea arbitration, show how political tensions can weaken legal commitments.

These risks make robust domestic law essential. Weak reporting, poor enforcement, or unfair benefit-sharing could all be seen as evidence of non-compliance under international law. As scholars such as Fitzmaurice and Rousseau have argued, domestic law may prevail within a State but cannot excuse breaches of international obligations. A poorly designed law could invite diplomatic protests or even international litigation.

The way forward is a law built on simplicity and transparency – domestically robust and internationally defensible. It should mandate transparent reporting and equitable benefit-sharing, establish a national digital repository for marine genetic data, and foster cooperation within the Global South. Balancing economic growth with conservation is imperative. With such measures in place, India can demonstrate that the ocean commons can indeed be managed for the benefit of all nations rather than becoming another site of inequity.

(The writer is a research fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

When the watchdog is muzzled: Critical tiger corridors at risk

GIRIDHAR KULKARNI

When Parliament amended the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in 2006 to create the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), it was responding to a conservation crisis. The local extinction of tigers in Sariska had exposed how fragmented governance and weak oversight failed India's most iconic species. The amendment included a powerful Section 38-O(1)(g), which empowered NTCA and the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) to protect not only tiger reserves but also the critical corridors connecting them. It ensured that these areas could not be diverted for ecologically unsustainable purposes.

The law is unambiguous: "The National Tiger Conservation Authority shall ensure that the tiger reserves and areas linking one protected area or tiger reserve with another protected area or tiger reserve are not diverted for ecologically unsustainable uses, except in the public interest, and with the approval of the National Board for Wildlife and on the advice of the National Tiger Conservation Authority."

This makes NTCA's role a legal precondition, not a procedural courtesy. Any diversion of tiger reserves or corridors requires NTCA's advice. Yet today, this safeguard is being dismantled by the very ministry meant to enforce it—the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

A dangerous precedent

The Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project (2000 MW) in Karnataka exemplifies the problem. The project overlaps the Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary and its eco-sensitive zone, cutting through a tiger corridor linking Kali Tiger Reserve and Sharavathi Valley Sanctuary. Over 15,000 trees will be felled, severing canopy connectivity crucial for the endangered lion-tailed macaque and permanently fragmenting habitat.

Despite these risks, the NBWL's Standing Committee granted in-principle wildlife clearance without NTCA's advice. Meanwhile, the forest clearance proposal has already reached the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), suggesting parallel approvals without statutory oversight. The Wildlife (Protection) Act makes no distinction between provisional and final approvals—NTCA's advice is mandatory at any stage of diversion. By proceeding without it, the NBWL's decision is not a mere procedural lapse but a violation of the law's mandate.

Sharavathi is not an isolated case. In 2016, the MoEF&CC's Regional Office in Bengaluru cleared the Kaiga–Bare Road widening (Stage I) through a tiger corridor without NTCA or NBWL involvement. The expansion of National Highway-766E (Kumta–Sirsi), which also cuts through a corridor, received Stage I (2020) and Stage II (2023) approvals without mandatory scrutiny. Divisional Forest Officers claimed the affected lands were not part of any 'recognised' wildlife migration corridor, even though the alignments cut through corridors identified by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and NTCA.

This pattern shows a systemic effort to bypass NTCA precisely where its scrutiny matters most-- rendering its statutory role hollow.

Why NTCA Matters: Some argue that NBWL or MoEF&CC regional offices have enough expertise to assess projects. But NTCA was created because tiger conservation demands independent, specialised oversight. Corridors are not bureaucratic categories—they are ecological lifelines that allow gene flow between tiger populations. Block them, and reserves become isolated islands, raising extinction risk.

Karnataka's corridors linking Kali, Sharavathi, Bhadra, and Nagarhole are among the most critical in the Western Ghats. Destroying them for dams, highways, or transmission lines weakens tiger populations, increases human–tiger conflict, and undoes decades of conservation gains.

MoEF&CC's complicity: Across these cases, MoEF&CC appears complicit. Its standing committee and regional offices are treating NTCA's advice as optional, despite the law's clarity. Allowing projects to advance without NTCA scrutiny dismantles the architecture Parliament put in place. This is not administrative oversight—it is a deliberate erosion of legal safeguards.

Rising tiger numbers are often celebrated, but if corridors are sacrificed and the NTCA sidelined, those numbers mask a hollow reality: fragmented populations with no long-term viability. The Sharavathi corridor matters as much to India's tiger future as any reserve. Treating it as expendable is ecological myopia.

If MoEF&CC persists, India's tiger story could turn from triumph to tragedy – a patchwork of isolated reserves unable to sustain the species.

The solution is clear. MoEF&CC must enforce the law as written. No project within a tiger reserve or corridor should reach NBWL or FAC without NTCA's advice. Past illegal approvals, including those in Karnataka, must be reviewed. NTCA's statutory authority must be reaffirmed—not as a formality, but as binding.

As a statutory body, NTCA cannot remain silent. It has both the authority and duty to uphold the law. Its inaction has allowed statutory safeguards to be eroded. Unless NTCA asserts its mandate, India's tiger reserves and corridors will remain at risk.

Karnataka, a leader in tiger conservation and home to the country's second-highest tiger population, must set an example. Protecting its reserves and corridors is essential for the long-term survival of the species. Anything less is a betrayal—of the law, of Parliament's intent, and of India's responsibility as steward of the world's largest wild tiger population.

(The writer is a wildlife conservationist)

Loss has become a pervasive condition of life in Europe and America

The West is lost

ANDREAS RECKWITZ

The most dramatic loss is environmental. Rising temperatures, extreme weather, and disappearing habitats in Europe and America are eroding the conditions of life for humans and nonhumans alike. NYT

From the Enlightenment onward, progress functioned as the secular creed of the West. For centuries the western societies were defined by the conviction that the future must outshine the present, just as the present surpassed the past. Such optimistic faith was not merely cultural or institutional but all-encompassing: Everything was going to get better. In this way of thinking, there was no room for loss.

Today, that civilisational belief is under profound threat. Loss has become a pervasive condition of life in Europe and America. It shapes the collective horizon more insistently than at any time since 1945, spilling into the mainstream of political, intellectual and everyday life. The question is no longer whether loss can be avoided but whether societies whose imagination is bound to "better" and "more" can learn to endure "less" and "worse." How that question is answered will shape the trajectory of the 21st century.

The most dramatic loss is environmental. Rising temperatures, extreme weather, disappearing habitats and the ruination of entire regions are eroding the conditions of life for humans and nonhumans alike. Even more threatening than present damage is the anticipation of future devastation — what has aptly been termed climate grief. What's more, mitigation strategies themselves promise losses: a departure from the consumer-oriented lifestyle of the 20th century, once celebrated as the hallmark of modern progress.

Locked in decline

Economic changes have also brought loss. Entire regions once defined by prosperity—Rust Belt America, the coal fields of northern England, small-town France, eastern Germany—are now locked in decline. The optimism of the mid-20th century, when upward mobility seemed the natural way of things, has proved exceptional rather than typical. It was, it turns out, a historical interlude. Deindustrialisation and global competition have fractured societies into winners and losers, with large segments of the middle class seeing their security erode.

Europe, meanwhile, has become an ageing continent. Demographic developments have led to an ever-growing share of the population entering retirement age, while the proportion of younger cohorts continues to shrink. Along with a lost sense of buoyancy, old age confronts a large part of the population—and their families—with visceral experiences of loss. Some rural areas, suffering stark population decline, have become redoubts of the elderly.

Across Europe and America, public infrastructures have weakened. Education systems in the United States, the health service in Britain and transportation networks in Germany have all come under strain, fuelling doubts about the capacity of liberal democracy to sustain itself. Housing shortages and grotesque price dynamics, particularly in metropolitan areas, produce acute insecurity and fears of downward mobility across much of the middle class.

And then there are the regressions of geopolitics. The post-Cold War expectation that liberal democracy and globalization would advance unchallenged has collapsed. Russia's war in Ukraine, China's authoritarian assertiveness and the retreat of multilateral institutions all signal the erosion of a liberal order once thought irreversible. A sense of historical reversal looms: instead of continuous democratization, a return of rivalry and violence. This too is experienced as loss, not of material goods but of confidence and security.

Loss, of course, is not new to modernity. Yet it sits uneasily with the modern ethos, which assumes dynamism and improvement. The modern secular religion of progress tends to excommunicate feelings of loss. Science, technology and capitalism all presume constant innovation and growth; liberal politics promise ever-greater well-being; middle-class life is built on expectations of rising living standards and expanding self-realization. The ideal of modern society is freedom from loss. This denial is Western modernity's foundational lie.

Yet such concealment has become impossible. Losses multiply and attract attention, while faith in progress falters. Once societies no longer believe that the future will inevitably be better, losses appear more severe. There is no guarantee that they are merely transitory episodes; soon, they begin to seem irreversible. This forms the basis of today's crisis. As the experience of loss contradicts the modern promise of never-ending progress, a general sense of grievance prevails.

The rise of populist politics

Against this backdrop, the rise of right-wing populism makes sense. Populist politics, whether in Europe or America, appeals to fears of decline and promises restoration: "Take back control" or "Make America great again." Populism channels anger over what has disappeared but provides only illusions of recovery. The crucial question then becomes: How to deal with loss? Is there an alternative to both populist politics and the naïve belief in progress?

One answer is the politics of resilience. This strategy works from the assumption that while negative events cannot be avoided, relative protection is possible. The aim is to strengthen societies so they are less vulnerable—to fortify health systems, ensure global security, stabilize housing markets and defend the institutions of liberal democracy itself. A politics of resilience accepts losses but seeks to shield societies from at least some of them.

A second strategy is the revaluation of loss as potential gain. The idea has emerged, especially in ecological circles, that certain losses may liberate rather than impoverish. Was the fossil-fuel-driven lifestyle truly progress, or a dead end of destruction masquerading as advancement? Might its abandonment enable richer, less frenetic, more sustainable forms of life? Here progress is not rejected but redefined, transposed onto new coordinates of well-being and sustainability.

A third strategy concerns the relationship between winners and losers in Western societies. If economic and ecological losses accumulate primarily among certain groups — the poor, the less educated, the peripheral—while others remain insulated, profound problems arise. A redistribution of both gains and losses becomes, as a matter of justice, necessary. This is, at least to some extent, a political task.

Even so, resilience, redefinition and redistribution cannot abolish loss altogether. Industrial modernity and the homogeneous middle-class society of the 1950s and 1960s are gone for good. There is no return to a world before climate change, nor to the unipolar order of Western dominance in the 1990s.

There must then be a final strategy: acknowledgment and integration. Borrowing from psychotherapy, this approach insists that loss should neither be denied nor absolutsed. Denial produces repression and resentment; fixation paralyses. Integration means weaving loss into individual life stories and collective narratives, making it bearable without trivializing it.

For liberal democracy, the implications are decisive. If politics continues to promise endless improvement, it will fuel disillusionment and strengthen populisms that thrive on betrayed expectations. But if democracies learn to articulate a more ambivalent narrative — one that acknowledges loss, confronts vulnerability, redefines progress and pursues resilience—they may paradoxically renew themselves.

To face truth with open eyes, to accept fragility and to incorporate loss into the democratic imagination could, in fact, be the precondition of its vitality. If we once dreamed of abolishing loss, we must now learn how to live with it. Should we succeed, it would mark a step toward maturity. And that could become a deeper form of progress.

(The writer is a sociologist and the author of a book on loss and modernity. He wrote from Berlin)

The New York Times

Cricket diplomacy must be restored

STANLEY CARVALHO

The refusal by Indian cricketers to accept the Asia Cup trophy from Asia Cricket Council president and Pakistan minister Mohsin Naqvi was unfortunate—a breach of sporting etiquette that diminished the spirit of the game.

Once again, India's thrilling victory over Pakistan in the final was overshadowed by a bizarre, dramatic twist. Even after the earlier two matches in the tournament, it wasn't fine batting or bowling that dominated headlines—it was the handshake boycott.

It is sad that nationalism and political tensions have turned cricket grounds into battlefields of sorts rather than arenas of shared passion. Given the heightened tensions between the two countries, this was an opportunity to restore a positive relationship.

Cricket diplomacy has historically helped de-escalate hostilities, albeit temporarily: Pakistan President Zia ul Haq's visit to Jaipur for a test match in 1987, the Indian tour of Pakistan in 2004, the 2005 one-day match witnessed by Gen Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Delhi and Yousuf Gilani's 2011 visit for a match at Mohali.

Before the 2004 tour, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee told Indian cricketers, "Whether you win or lose doesn't matter to me, but while you are there, you must win the hearts of the Pakistani people." Words exemplary of the spirit of sports can inspire.

Relations between India and Pakistan have reached low points after the 2008 Mumbai attacks, the recent Pahalgam attacks, followed by military conflicts, and sustained hostility. Ending such hostilities requires political and diplomatic solutions—not letting sport become a proxy battleground.

India has declared it will not play bilateral matches with Pakistan, nor host Pakistani teams. While geopolitical tensions may make bilateral play impossible, multilateral competitions are different; India is obliged to participate, and the BCCI's sports broadcasting revenues through endorsements and advertisements make it lucrative to do so.

Having committed to a multilateral tournament, Indian cricketers should have upheld the spirit of the game and not broken tradition by doing what they did.

Does shaking hands with Pakistani cricketers or accepting the winner's cup from a Pakistani mean supporting terrorism, or is it an anti-national act? Do such acts reflect the Indian players' ideology? Does it imply patriotism, or, as Captain Suryakumar Yadav said, "A few things in life are above sportsmanship spirit"?

Sportspersons do not represent ideologies; they represent their team, their culture and their values and act as role models by their achievements and conduct. Sportspersons cannot and should not become political spokespersons.

Sadly, in the world we live in, it is hard to separate politics from anything, be it sports, arts, culture, business, etc., but given what cricket is in India and given how much rides on an India-Pakistan match, it would do a world of good if sportspersons, particularly cricketers, remained apolitical and did not become pawns in the hands of politicians. Perhaps that's easier said than done.

It would be naïve to assume this was not a political decision, and both India's captain and the BCCI secretary, Devajit Saikia, pulled no punches in stating that they are aligned with the BCCI and the government. Do players have to bear the burden of that decision through their words and actions when they are already burdened with the pressure that they must win against their arch rivals?

It is well-known that a cricket match between India and Pakistan is more than just a match; it is a battle without weapons, and it is about national pride. One can imagine the tension brewing in the minds of the players, particularly the captain, during a match. Do players have to undergo such anxiety? Shouldn't they remain sharply focused on their game?

It is disheartening that a cricket match, which has always been a source of passion and pride, a symbolic gesture of goodwill to foster friendships, is turning into a battle of one-upmanship and scoring political points.

Such poor behaviour does more harm than good, not only to the respective teams but also by setting a dangerous precedent for the gentleman's game. It also sends out distasteful signals to cricket fans.

The need of the hour is to restore cricket diplomacy. Let there be friendship and support among the players, and let the two countries continue to play matches in the true spirit of sportsmanship. And last but not least, keep politics out of sport.

(The writer is a freelance journalist)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1975

PM asks Kamaraj followers to join Congress

New Delhi, October 5
Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today appealed to Mr. K. Kamaraj's partymen, particularly in Tamil Nadu, to join the Congress and work for a bright future for India. She said workers of both parties should derive strength from the grief at the passing away of Mr. Kamaraj to fulfil his desire that the whole nation should join in tackling the difficult problems facing the people. Mrs. Gandhi spoke at a memorial meeting for Mr. Kamaraj held under the auspices of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee.

25 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 2000

Russia endorses Indian position on Kashmir

New Delhi, Oct 5
India and Russia today announced their decision to constitute a joint working group(JWG) to address and deal with the common problem of terrorism emanating from the Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. The two countries also urged the international community to tighten the screw on the Taliban unless its leaders ceased support to international terrorism, drug trafficking and conformed to the norms of human rights and international humanitarian law.

OASIS | MEERA SESHADRI

Arguments or spirit-numbing exercises?

It may sound funny, yet, it is a fact we find many folks, frittering away time, in having feisty arguments, often over frivolous matters. Yes, arguably, there are amazing facets, affixed to these aggressive arguments. Why do people argue?

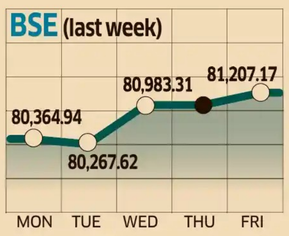
To begin with, one reason could be to exert supremacy. This is especially seen in people, exuding enormous ego, with execrable imperious attitude. Such people seldom have any regard for others' standpoints, or while speaking of sensitive issues, concerning others. Since, their sole mission is to be super successful, in spewing the last syllable, and silencing the others. Remember the saying, "Win an argument, and lose a relation"?

The second lot are those, who simply indulge in arguments, even over silly matters, just to show off their 'stupendous' knowledge. To them, having arguments, and verbally pouncing on others, is a power play, and hence, they presume losing an argument is akin to losing a prized possession. As the saying goes, "Slightest the knowledge, strongest is the spirit to make a show of it."

Of course, there are those others, who argue in lighter veins, all for some larks, laughs, and in jest. This is commonly seen among close relations. Next, people argue as defence tactics, too, post committing blunders! So, to dodge dreadful dressing-down from others, they themselves start unleashing a deluge of high-decibel verbal missiles. Then, we often behold, droves of people, having deadly arguments with their dearest ones, in a bid to dispel misconceptions, by driving sense, in making them discern actual reality.

There is yet another funny facet of these fierce arguments. Once, at a party, two persons, with all pertinacity, were having potent arguments over some political issue. Incidentally, they were having incendiary debates, making inflammatory remarks. In the process, had inadvertently ignited the ire and indignation of an irrelevant third person, who wasn't even involved, but had instantly started an intense argument with these two! *Begaani shaadi mein Abdullah deewana?*

Now, at the personal front, prior to plunging into paroxysms of persistent arguments, it is prudent to ponder over possible gains at partaking in such 'painful activity'. In case of no gains, it is better to say 'no' to that nugatory, spirit-numbing exercise.



*Data as of Oct 3

*Markets were closed on Thursday due to Gandhi Jayanti

TOP GAINERS

TATAMOTORS	6.39%
KOTAKBANK	5.34%
BEL	4.22%
TITAN	3.76%
TATA STEEL	3.43%

TOP LOSERS

MARUTI	-2.84%
BHARTIARTL	-1.10%
RELIANCE	-1.04%
TECHM	0.48%
ULTRACEMCO	-0.46%

TOP GAINERS

SHRIRAM FIN	6.56%
TATA MOTORS	6.42%
KOTAK MAHIN	5.30%
HINDALCO	4.91%
INDUSIND	4.86%

TOP LOSERS

MARUTI SUZ	-2.95%
EICHER MOT	-1.50%
COAL INDIA	-1.49%
BHARTI AIRTEL	-1.04%
RELIANCE INDS	-1.03%

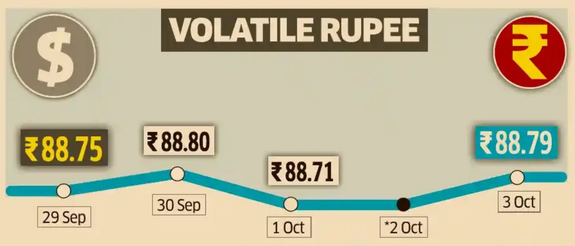
Sensex (52-week)

Oct 3, 2024	Oct 3, 2025	
82,497.10	81,207.17	-1.56%

Nifty (52-week)

Oct 3, 2024	Oct 3, 2025	
25,250.10	24,894.25	-1.41%

10-year Bond yield 6.51%



*Markets were closed on Oct 2 due to Gandhi Jayanti

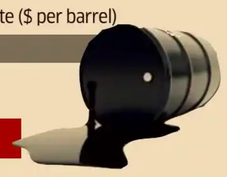
Exchange Rates*

Dollar	₹88.79	SGD	₹68.81
Pound	₹119.32	Yen (100 units)	₹60.16
Euro	₹104.08		

*Price at which banks sell

Crude Oil Rate ($ per barrel)

BRENT CRUDE
$64.53*
0.66%



*Rate as of Oct 4

Bengaluru fuel pump price*

(Retail)
Petrol* ₹102.92 ₹0%
Diesel* ₹90.99 ₹0%

*Rates as of Oct 5 #Rate change compared with yesterday

Commodity watch

COFFEE

Category	Rate (Rs per 50 kg)*
Arabica Parchment	₹26000 - 26500
Arabica Cherry	₹13800 - 15500
Robusta Parchment	₹16000 - 16750
Robusta Cherry	₹10400 - 11200

*Rates as on Oct 2

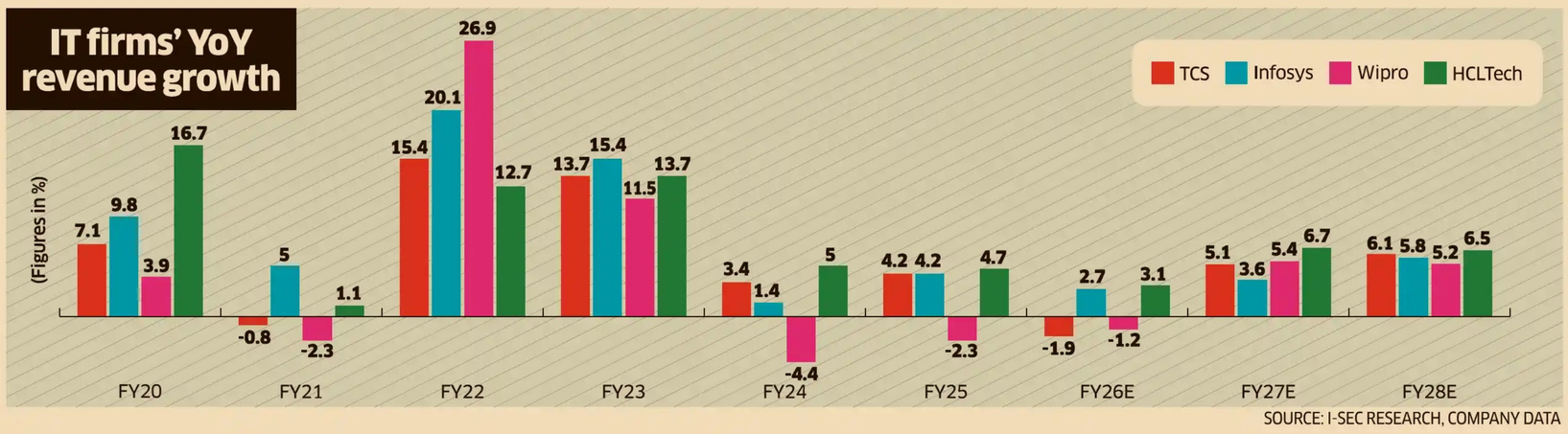
Other Commodities

Silkworm cocoon (Rs per kg)*

Bivoltine (BV)	₹687
Cross Breed (CB)	₹603

*Average rates as on Oct 2

IT sector staring at subdued revenue growth



SOURCE: I-SEC RESEARCH, COMPANY DATA

Decision making delays continue as demand remains uncertain: Analysts

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

As the season for report cards on the second quarter (Q2) of the financial year (FY26) open up, analysts and brokerages are bracing for a muted performance by the country's IT services companies, with no improvement over the preceding quarter.

The first to go will be Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), which will announce its financial results on October 9. This will be followed HCLTech on October 13 and both Infosys and Wipro on October 16.

ICICI Securities in its IT preview said the demand environment has neither improved nor deteriorated since Q1FY26, as discretionary spends remain low. "Q2FY26 has likely benefited from tailwinds, mainly: 1) marginal cross currency and an INR depreciation fillip to margins; 2) stable pricing; 3) opportunities from agentic AI; and 4) momentum in BFSI, hi-tech," it said.

But the sector was not devoid of notable headwinds, mainly uncertain macros; protracted decision-making cycles; and GCCs (global capability centres) taking away market share, it added.

"Decision-making delays persist as the demand environment remains uncertain. Discretionary spending is impacted, but is relatively better for BFSI/hi-tech. Within verticals, BFSI continues to see traction with pockets of strength," the report elaborated.

Manufacturing, retail and automotive verticals may see tariff-related impact. It added that technology vertical is seeing some green shoots driven by 'AI-fication' and clients are exercising caution in the healthcare and life-sciences vertical.

"Companies have been indicating that revenue deflation from AI shall be compensated by higher volume of work. Most companies are hiring locally in the US to mitigate any future H-1B levy impact," the brokerage firm said.

Analysts also said that in the second quarter, IT firms are expected to report subdued revenue growth.

Motilal Oswal expects quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) constant currency (CC) growth in the range of 0.3% to 2.4% for large-caps and mid-caps expected to outperform once again with a growth range of -0.5% to 6.0%.

It projects revenue growth of 1% QoQ CC for TCS and 1.7% for HCLTech. The BSNL deal ramp-up for TCS is likely to kick in from the third quarter. Infosys is likely to report 2.4% CC growth sequentially, driven by deal ramp-ups, seasonally better first half of FY26 and a partial contribution from an acquisition.

Motilal Oswal estimates Wipro to report 0.3% QoQ CC, slightly above the mid-point of guidance, supported by inorganic contributions. Tech Mahindra is expected to post 1% QoQ growth, while LTIMindtree is likely to report 2% CC growth, aided by the agri-deal ramp-up.

Another important factor to watch out for during the second quarter is attrition. In the past few quarters, IT firms have been witnessing an increase in attrition rates. TCS' attrition in IT services was at 13.8% at the end of Q1, up 50 bps sequentially. Infosys' attrition rate was at 14.4% in Q1, up from 12.7% in the year-ago period.

HDFC Securities also forecasts subdued revenue growth in an otherwise seasonally strong quarter, as persistent global macroeconomic uncertainty and recent US tariff measures continue to dampen discretionary spending. "Clients remain cautious, resulting in slower growth and intensified pricing pressure, although deal activity witnessed some improvement towards the end of the quarter. The overall deal pipeline remains steady, with deal wins in cost optimisation, infrastructure modernisation, and AI-led initiatives," it said.

According to the brokerage firm, the recent H-1B visa fee hike is unlikely to cause near-term disruptions, but it is expected to alter delivery models by increasing onsite costs and accelerating offshoring trends over time.

Margins for the quarter should see some support from the rupee's depreciation, which will help offset the impact of selective wage hikes, even as hiring trends remain muted across the sector, it said.

It anticipates that Infosys will keep its FY26E revenue growth guidance unchanged at 1-3% and HCLTech will retain its guidance of 3-5% for FY26E. Wipro is likely to guide 0% to +1% QoQ for Q3FY26E. Infosys is likely to maintain a margin band of 20-22%, HCLTech at 17-18%, and TCS at 26-28%.

Companies' total contract values (TCVs) are expected to improve with deals coming from cost optimisation and GenAI initiatives (TCS at $8-10bn and Infosys at $3bn).

Hiring in tech sector remains sluggish: Xpheno

The volume of active openings in the tech sector has turned sluggish over the last four months. The tech sector's current contribution to India's total active talent demand is 48%, continuing in the sub-50% mark for 3 years, said specialist staffing firm Xpheno in its latest report.

It said October has opened with an outlook for 1.05 lakh active openings in the tech talent market in India. The tech openings for October 2025 have a 43% freshness index, with less than half of all openings being published or refreshed in the last 2-week period.

In comparison, the month of September had a 37% freshness index, and the same period last year had a 45% freshness of postings. The MoM rise in freshness of postings is attributed to the quarter end cleanup and refresh of openings and hiring plans, it added.

Kamal Karanth, Co-founder, Xpheno told *DH*, "While the sector has registered a few positive movements in demand volume and velocity, the green shoots are few and far apart. Among the tech cohorts, the IT services cohort continues to be a matter of concern on talent action and recent events on the US market front are set to further impact the cohort's demand outlook in the near-term."

MNC job cuts comes calling on India employees

Termination letters have just started flowing in

BENGALURU, DHNS

Global companies have been announcing layoffs, mostly driven by the accelerating impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and also as a cost-cutting measure. The trimmings have started to touch their Indian workforce. Though Accenture, SAP, Novo Nordisk and Microsoft announced their layoffs some time ago, it is learnt that a few employees in India have received their termination letters now. Remarkably, more roles will come under the axe in coming weeks in India.

Global healthcare company Novo Nordisk last month announced a workforce reduction of about 9,000 positions out of 78,400 employees. "Parting ways with talented colleagues is the most difficult part of this process. I want to personally acknowledge the dedication and meaningful contributions of all our colleagues, especially those who may be affected by these changes. These changes are intended to enable us to do two things simultaneously—realign resources toward high-impact R&D and commercial initiatives while creating a more agile organisation that can respond faster to the evolving needs of millions of patients with chronic diseases," Maziar Mike Doustdar, president and CEO of Novo Nordisk said in a LinkedIn post.

The cut paring of roles is set to impact employees in India too. Novo Nordisk has a Global Business Services (GBS) hub in Bengaluru.

When asked how many employees in India will be impacted? Novo Nordisk said in a statement, "We have announced that the total number of intended workforce reductions globally is approximately 9,000. Out of respect for the employees involved, we will not share additional details about individual sites or areas. This process takes time, and our highest priority is to support our employees."

In July this year, in yet another round of layoff, Microsoft announced 9,000 job cuts. In May, the company had let go of about 6,000 employees or 3% of its total employees across all levels and geographies and many employees were asked to leave immediately. SAP is also slashing more jobs and in a statement, it said, "As our industry undergoes a profound transformation driven by AI and cloud technologies, we are focusing on continuously optimizing our processes and structures, as well as making strategic investments in future capabilities. As announced in July, we are investing in training programs and new hires in critical growth areas. Also announced in July, we are planning targeted measures that are expected to affect approximately 1–2% of our global workforce in 2025."

According to Layoffs.fyi, which compiles data from public reports and tracks layoffs, 91,314 tech employees have been laid off globally in 2025.

Apart from these, India's largest IT services firm Tata Consultancy Services, which employs over 6.1 lakh people, recently announced job cuts that will impact about 12,250 employees.

India, Qatar may finalise terms of reference for trade deal this week

NEW DELHI, PTI: India and Qatar are expected to finalise terms of reference this week to start talks for a free trade agreement (FTA), the commerce ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

The issue will figure during the two-day visit of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to Doha. The visit begins from October 6. Goyal will attend Qatar-India Joint Commission on Trade and Commerce meeting. It will be co-chaired by Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Qatar.

He is accompanied by senior officials from different ministries and a large business delegation. The two sides are expected to hold wide-ranging discussions reviewing bilateral trade performance, addressing existing trade barriers and non-tariff issues, and exploring avenues to enhance trade and investment flows, it said.

Most consumers still not getting GST rate cut benefits: Survey

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

While a majority of automobile firms have extended benefits of the cut in goods and services tax (GST) to consumers the pass through in other categories like packaged foods and medicines have been slow partly due to retailers' reluctance to sell at lower prices without the brands or manufacturers agreeing to make up for their losses, a community survey showed.

In packaged foods and medicines categories only 1 in 10 consumers surveyed confirmed receiving full benefit of GST rate reduction while 2 in 10 received partial benefits in the first week of implementation, as per a survey conducted by LocalCircles, a community social media platform. This means around 70% consumers in this category have not received the benefits of GST rate cut.

During the second week (September 29 to October 5), 40% consumers of packaged food, who participated in the survey, confirmed receiving full benefit of GST rate cut while another 18% received partial benefits.

In the case of appliances, white goods and consumer electronics only 3 in 10 every consumer surveyed confirmed receiving full benefit of GST rate reduction, while another 3 in 10 confirmed receiving partial benefit.

Over 74,000 consumers located in 341 districts participated in the survey conducted through LocalCircles platform.

The pass through of the tax cut benefits has been the best in the automobile category. Around 70% of consumers who bought a vehicle in the first week of implementation of the GST rate cut confirmed receiving full benefit while 2 in 10 confirmed receiving partial benefit.

The government has lowered GST on around 80% of goods and services with effect from September 22. The GST rate on many medicines and packaged food items has been cut to 5% from earlier 18% or 12%, while on a majority of appliances, white goods, consumer electronics and automobiles it has been lowered from 28% to 18%.

The GST rate has significantly boosted sales with major brands and retailers reporting 25 to 100% growth in sales during this year's Navratri that concluded on October 1 when compared with the last year's Navratri festival.

SAFETY IN MANUFACTURING

How Godrej Enterprises Group is securing smart factories against rising digital threats

As manufacturing embraces Industry 4.0, cybersecurity is as critical as efficiency. In an exclusive interaction with **Caroline Diana** of *DH*, **Vijay Balakrishnan,** CDIO at Godrej Enterprises Group, explains how the company secures factories, supply chains, and people against evolving threats.

Cybersecurity in manufacturing is often about protecting not just data but also production lines. How is Godrej Enterprises Group approaching security for operational technology systems that run factories?
Cybersecurity is a board-level priority at Godrej, with regular reviews and investments aligned to our long-term digital strategy. We ensure cross-functional collaboration between IT, manufacturing, and leadership teams to drive alignment and accountability across the organisation.

We have implemented a holistic cybersecurity programme that addresses both current and emerging cyber risks. This programme extends to our Operational Technology (OT) system, critical components that have powered our manufacturing for decades.

Unlike IT systems, OT environments prioritise availability over confidentiality. These systems often operate in the background, invisible to most users, but they are the backbone of our production infrastructure.

With the rise of Industry 4.0, connected machines, IoT sensors, and smart factories – the attack surface is expanding. What are the biggest vulnerabilities you see in manufacturing today?
One of the biggest challenges in manufacturing today is that OT systems were never designed with cybersecurity in mind. Many of these machines run on outdated operating systems, because unlike IT systems, they don't go through regular refresh cycles. Some of them have been running for decades. On top of that, OEMs often need remote access for maintenance, which opens the door to significant risks. And when you talk about upgrading OT controllers or systems, the costs are high—it usually requires OEM support and heavy investment.

Now, as factories are becoming smarter, IT and OT networks are converging. That convergence has only increased the attack surface, making OT security a top priority for us at Godrej. To manage these risks, we follow the Purdue Enterprise Reference Architecture, which is a foundational framework for securing industrial control systems. We are also exploring AI-driven threat detection and predictive maintenance, so we can anticipate issues before they hit us.

Ransomware and supply-chain attacks are becoming more common globally. How do you guard your supply chain?
We've built a structured third-party risk management process. Vendors go through detailed security assessments so we know exactly where they stand. Identity and access governance is tight—we control not just the technology, but the people and processes around it. Before any third-party system is integrated, we mandate vulnerability assessments and penetration tests. And finally, we make sure our legal contracts are watertight, with explicit cybersecurity clauses built in.

The way we see it, resilience comes from being both practical in the present and prepared for the future. That's the philosophy driving our OT and supply-chain security.

> "Building a cyber-aware culture is essential for long-term resilience across our diverse workforce."
> **VIJAY BALAKRISHNAN,** Chief Digital and Information Officer, Godrej Enterprises Group

Many employees on the shop floor may not be trained in digital practices. How do you build a culture of cybersecurity awareness across such a diverse workforce?
We believe that building a cyber-aware culture is essential for long-term resilience, so we've invested in multiple initiatives to make sure the message reaches everyone, from the factory floor to senior management.

Each year, we conduct more than 30 in-person training sessions that reach around 2,500 users across our manufacturing facilities. Alongside these, we share regular emailers on cybersecurity, privacy, and OT-specific threats, ensuring that employees are consistently reminded of the risks in simple, accessible language.

We host expert-led talks and mandatory simulation-based e-learning, reinforced with regular phishing drills. To keep employees engaged, we've gamified the training, which boosts participation and retention.

Regulation is tightening in India with the DPDP Act and global frameworks like NIS2. How do you balance compliance with the need for speed and innovation in manufacturing?
Our focus is not just on meeting the letter of the law, but also on embedding respect for privacy rights and protecting the personal data of customers, employees, children, and other stakeholders. Even though the final rules are still being defined, we already have a structured roadmap in place, which includes gap analysis and readiness planning.

At the corporate level, we're keeping a close eye on regulatory developments, both in India and globally, and engaging actively with industry privacy forums. This helps us stay ahead of compliance requirements while continuing to innovate in manufacturing.

TOP PICKS

The data is sourced from Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited

Acme Solar
(ID: ACMESOLAR)
BUY
Upside +29%**
Last close ₹287
Target: ₹370*

Hero Motocorp
(ID: HEROMOTOCO)
BUY
Upside +11%**
Last close ₹5,545
Target: ₹6,168*

BEL
(ID: BEL)
BUY
Upside +19%**
Last close ₹412
Target: ₹490*

V Mart
(ID: VMART)
BUY
Upside +22%**
Last close ₹847
Target: ₹1,035*

HDFC Bank
(ID: HDFCBANK)
BUY
Upside +19%**
Last close ₹963
Target: ₹1,150*

* Target price has been calculated on the basis of fundamentals ** Upside refers to more value stock is expected to generate than its current price

Information from peer groups & social media cannot guide financial planning

A recent survey report – the Investor Survey 2025 from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), in collaboration with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) and key market infrastructure institutions such as NSE, BSE, NSDL, and CDSL, provides interesting insights about Indian households and their participation in the securities market. Despite all the noise around equities, only 9.5% of Indian households participate in the markets. Even among those who invest, only 36% possess a high or moderate level of knowledge about securities markets.

For information and education, personal contacts, social media, fininfluencers, online investment communities on WhatsApp, Telegram groups, TV are the most popular sources. About 93% investors find fininfluencers to be moderate to highly credible and among them 62% investors make their investment decisions based on fininfluencer recommendations. Only 25% of investors actually consult with financial professionals.

This is an area of concern. Limited knowledge, combined with the expectation of high returns, quick gains, and the assumption of low risk can be a dangerous mix for investors.

Personal finance is exactly that — personal. Everyone's goals, income, and priorities are different, so financial decisions need to be customised rather than copied from others. Often, people end up following their peer group and get into investments like unlisted stocks/ fractional property etc- investments whose working and risk they may not truly understand. Many times, the investments made do not tie in with any of the person's goals as well.

MRIN AGARWAL
FINANCIAL EDUCATOR & FOUNDER DIRECTOR OF FINSAFE INDIA PVT LTD

Anyone can post financial opinions online. But do these recommendations even hold good? For example, there are many videos telling people what asset allocation they should follow at different ages. Now blindly applying this to one's portfolio can be detrimental as one may not have the time frame required to stay invested for the risk being taken. If a person has goals in 3 years and ends up investing in equities based on the videos, it can certainly carry risk to capital.

Social media reels are generic and essentially tips which may help for small matters but are not applicable for long term finances. Videos on how to maximise credit card points are useful to an extent and take away focus from the more important aspects like financial planning. The multitude of investment hack videos only end up making investors take impulsive decisions.

There is also no accountability for losses. A lot of social media content is based on what is trending and again this may not be suitable for the investor. With the recent rise in gold and silver prices, there has been a surge in content urging people to invest quickly in these metals and investors run the risk of being overexposed to commodities.

The pursuit of quick gratification - information and returns, is leading investors to compromise on risk management and keeping the focus on the short-term gains over long-term financial planning. It is time to get back to the basics – proper research and planning, time-tested principles that lead to sustainable, long-term wealth.

Credit risk funds: Are they untouchable?

The category has outperformed not just other funds, but even broader equity funds in the past year

VIVEK RAMAKRISHNAN

When one mentions credit risk funds, the knee jerk reaction is often a negative one.

"It's risky – papers may default!"

"We have burnt our hands in the past."

"We are anyway investing in fixed income for safety, we might as well invest in "safe funds" or in equity where taxes are lower?"

After all, nothing hogs headlines more than a default, and at times, even a downgrade.

However, it is time that investors should look at credit risk funds as a core part of their asset allocation – the category has outperformed not just other funds, but even broader equity funds in the past year. In a few instances, there have been repayments from past defaulting bonds which has led to improved returns in a few funds.

But the most important story that is emerging is the quality of 'carry'.

Generally, narratives and momentum drive investment patterns. Till lately, either equity or capital gains from long bonds have given returns to investors. Investing in gold has become the recent theme-du-jour. Credit risk has been restricted to a very narrow base and specific kind of investments – for example, via Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs), targeting HNIs. However, retail investors have ignored the quiet gains from "carry" – investing in quality lower rated bonds that offer higher yields.

Does "lower rated" trigger a negative response? It should not! Mutual funds have been conscious of safety, even as returns played the biggest role in delivering quality returns. Credit ratings, important as they are, tell you only part of the story. Many quality companies, some even belonging to leading industrial groups were rated low a few years ago – Tata Steel, Bharti Airtel, Hindalco, to name a few. The default probabilities of these companies were very low. But the ratings were reacting to a point in the cycle.

Therefore, we need to be less fussed about the ratings per se. Remember that the biggest defaults that shook the market were from AAA rated companies – and many lower rated companies who were affected thrived later.

So, then what ensures "safety"? Our fundamental belief is that good governance leads to lower default probability. And that gives you safety. Good governance is not the preserve of highly rated companies only – it is present even in lower rated companies! Evaluating this, of course, is tricky (involves extensive reference checks and cross verifications) and subjective but pays dividends in the long run.

In fact, even while investing in equity, funds place a lot of credence on governance. After all, credit is a bridge between rates and equity. Invest in the right companies, regardless of a ratings driven mindset, it gives you good returns without losing sleep.

That said, the path of a lower rated credit company can be noisy. They are lower rated for a reason, their size may be small, leverage may be higher than a AAA rated company or the relative stability of returns may be lower. Talk about noise - RBI banned a few NBFCs in 2024 from doing fresh business for a period – in this instance, good ALM profiles and financial flexibility helped the affected companies sail through this period of crisis. In the larger picture, the ability of companies to manage risks is something that needs careful assessment

Investors should understand that in most cases liquidity (ie. ability to sell a bond quickly) rather than credit risk dominates while taking higher risks portfolio. Knee-jerk reaction, looking at negative news, can be counterproductive. Credit funds are best with patient investors who fully understand how a fund positions the portfolio, can hold through noise, and has a time horizon of at least three years.

In the fixed income space, tactical allocations ie. get in and out with gains, should be restricted to more liquid funds – say those that invest in IGBs or AAA papers. For credit risk funds, patience is the key. Allocation should be measured on the basis of genuine staying power and seeing through the noise.

(The writer is VP - Investments, DSP Mutual Fund)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Market to continue consolidation with a positive bias

Spotlight will be on auto and FMCG sectors

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA

This week, equities are expected to continue their consolidation with a positive bias, supported by an accommodative RBI monetary policy stance, a favourable monsoon season, and festive-driven demand. Auto and FMCG sectors are likely to remain in focus, benefiting from strong rural consumption following the IMD's report of India's best monsoon in five years (8% above the Long Period Average), along with tailwinds from recent GST rate cuts.

The week also marks the start of the Q2FY26 earnings season, with TCS set to announce results on October 9. On the macro front, investors will closely track India's Services PMI for September, US unemployment data, and commentary from the US Federal Reserve.

In the previous week, Nifty50 gained 245 points to close at 24,894 (+1%), supported by RBI policy announcements. The broader market outperformed, with Nifty Midcap100 and Smallcap100 rising 2.1% and 1.8%, respectively. All sectoral indices ended in the green, led by Nifty PSU Banks and Metals, each up 4%. For September, Nifty50 ended higher by 0.8% MoM after two consecutive months of decline and remains up 4.1% CY25 YTD. However, on the institutional front, FIIs continued their selling streak for the third straight month, registering outflows of over Rs35,000 crore in September.

In a positive development, RBI announced a set of regulatory measures to strengthen banks, improve credit flow, and ease operations for regulated entities. Key clarifications on NBFCs within banking groups will aid efficient capital use, sharper customer focus, and stronger franchise value. With the RBI measures reflecting regulatory pragmatism, balancing growth with prudent risk management, we maintain our positive view on the banking sector.

Amidst focus on the automotive sector, the monthly auto sales for September reflected mixed trends, constrained largely by logistics challenges, while retail sales registered strong traction aided by GST rate cuts and pent-up demand. A key highlight was the sharp recovery in entry-level vehicles, both 2Ws and PVs, which witnessed a marked pickup in demand. Most OEMs remain optimistic and expect the healthy momentum to sustain at least through Diwali. The tractor segment delivered robust 49% YoY growth for the two listed players, significantly ahead of estimates, driven by positive rural sentiment and GST cuts on tractors and parts. Overall, the sector sentiment has turned decisively positive post the GST rate reductions.

With the monsoon nearing its end, we expect capex-driven sectors to see a revival in momentum. The cables & wires (C&W) industry is indicating sustained demand, led by infrastructure development (roads, railways), power sector expansion (renewables, T&D), and emerging segments like EVs, data centers, and real estate. Investor concerns on competitive intensity appear overstated, as new entrants such as Ultratech and Adani Group have not outlined aggressive near-term plans, and strong demand should absorb incremental supply. Meanwhile, rising raw material prices—largely passed through—continue to support revenue growth. With copper/aluminum prices up 6–9% QoQ in 2QFY26, C&W companies are expected to post robust revenue growth driven by both pricing and volume tailwinds.

While FII outflows and global cues may introduce some volatility, factors including domestic consumption, monetary policies and the Q2FY26 earnings will remain the key market catalysts; providing selective sector/ stock specific investment opportunities.

Rural consumption will be a driving force.

FPIs offload equities worth Rs 23,885 cr in Sept

NEW DELHI, PTI: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) remained net sellers of Indian equities in September, withdrawing Rs 23,885 crore (around $2.7 billion) and taking year-to-date outflow to Rs 1.58 lakh crore ($17.6 billion).

This marks the third consecutive month of withdrawals, following heavy outflows of Rs 34,990 crore in August and Rs 17,700 crore in July, data from depositories showed.

The latest selling was driven by multiple factors, like US trade and policy shocks -- steep tariff hikes of up to 50% on Indian goods and a one-time $100,000 H-1B visa fee, which hurt sentiment toward export-oriented sectors, especially IT, Himanshu Srivastava, Principal, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

The rupee's fall to a record low level also added currency risk, while relatively high valuations of Indian equities prompted rotation to other Asian markets, he added.

Despite the ongoing sell-off, some analysts believe conditions may gradually turn in India's favour.

Vaqarjaved Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst at Angel One, noted that valuations have now become more reasonable and that factors, such as a cut in GST rates and a pro-growth monetary policy, could help rekindle foreign interest.

"India remains the fastest-growing major economy globally," Khan said, adding that the upcoming earnings season and macroeconomic data will play a key role in determining FPI flows in the near term. Srivastava pointed out that a sustained FPI turnaround will hinge on several factors.

Mcap of 7 of 10 most valued firms climbs Rs 74,573 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms climbed Rs 74,573.63 crore in a holiday-shortened last week, with HDFC Bank emerging as the biggest gainer in line with a positive trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 780.71 points or 0.97%, and the Nifty went up by 239.55 points or 0.97%.

While HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) were among the gainers, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, and Infosys faced erosion from their valuation.

HDFC Bank added Rs 30,106.28 crore, taking its market valuation to Rs 14,81,889.57 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of LIC jumped Rs 20,587.87 crore to Rs 5,72,507.17 crore.

The valuation of State Bank of India surged Rs 9,276.77 crore to Rs 8,00,340.70 crore, and that of Hindustan Unilever climbed Rs 7,859.38 crore to Rs 5,97,806.50 crore.

The mcap of ICICI Bank edged higher by Rs 3,108.17 crore to Rs 9,75,115.85 crore, and that of Bajaj Finance went up by Rs 2,893.45 crore to Rs 6,15,808.18 crore.

The market valuation of TCS rallied by Rs 741.71 crore to Rs 10,50,023.27 crore.

However, Reliance Industries faced an erosion of Rs 19,351.44 crore from its valuation, which stood at Rs 18,45,084.98 crore.

The mcap of Bharti Airtel declined by Rs 12,031.45 crore.

Gold may stay volatile this week over US govt funding bill, Fed's next move

NEW DELHI, PTI: Gold prices are likely to remain volatile in the coming week, as investors track developments around the US government funding bill, labour market data and Federal Reserve commentary, analysts said.

The release of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting minutes on Thursday is also likely to influence bullion market sentiment, they added.

"The week ahead is relatively light on data, but volatility is expected to remain high with frequency to profit-booking likely to increase, followed by renewed buying as well. In the week ahead the focus will remain on voting for the US government funding bill, while on the data front it will be the labour market data, if released.

"Federal Reserve official commentary will be closely watched with Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech on Thursday," said Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research at JM Financial Services Ltd.

Mer said gold prices added another 3.5-4% to its recent gains last week, buoyed by a weaker US dollar and rising concerns over the partial US government shutdown, which has delayed crucial macroeconomic data releases.

DH REVIEW

Apple's iPhone Air - ultra-light packed with Pro power

ROHIT K V N
BENGALURU, DHNS

As Apple unveiled its iPhone 17 series last month, most eyes were riveted on the Air variant {first of its kind) as it boasted an ultra-slim design (positioned as the thinnest and lightest iPhone ever) and innovative features. Let's look at what it has to offer:

Design & build

Taking inspiration from the MacBook Air, the iPhone Air is impressively thin at just 5.6mm and weighs 165g. Its lightweight design makes everyday tasks like messaging and scrolling on social media apps a breeze, and there will be less hand fatigue.

The internal components are cleverly designed, with the processor placed in the camera plateau at the top, and Apple has also let go of the physical SIM slot to make more room for high-density battery cells.

Though it looks fragile, the iPhone Air is remarkably sturdy. Apple has used aerospace-grade 5 titanium for the frame.

The front and back are protected by Ceramic Shield 2 and Ceramic Shield (gen 1), respectively. It has far better scratch resistance compared to previous iPhone models. The device is IP68-rated, meaning it can survive a dip in the swimming pool up to six meters for close to 30 minutes.

Display

The 6.5-inch Super Retina XDR display boasts 3,000 nits peak brightness, 120Hz ProMotion, and an anti-reflection coating. It performs exceptionally well outdoors with minimal glare. The always-on display feature is available but can be turned off to conserve battery.

Performance

Thanks to the powerful 27-core A19 Pro silicon with Neural Accelerators, the iPhone Air delivers smooth performance. Be it gaming, photography, or AI processing, it doesn't show any lagness as such. Hardware-accelerated ray tracing feature delivers an immersive gaming experience.

During extended sessions outdoors, the device gets slightly warm, but it's manageable.

The device runs iOS 26 and comes with the all-new Liquid Glass UI featuring a translucent design. Though there are minor bugs, it is likely to be addressed in future updates. The device supports Apple Intelligence features such as Image Playground, real-time translations, highlight to search and more.

Air Info

Display:
6.5-inch
Super XDR Display with ProMotion tech

Processor:
Apple A19 Pro

Durability:
Grade-5 titanium frame, IP68 rating, Ceramic Shield 2 on the front

Colours:
Space Black, Cloud White, Light Gold, Sky Blue.

Storage:
256GB, 512GB, and 1TB variants, starting at
Rs 1,19,900

Battery life

Under normal usage with Wi-Fi connectivity, the iPhone Air can last a full day. However, heavy 5G cellular usage for multimedia consumption on OTT apps or playing graphics-rich games will drain the phone a tad faster.

Connectivity

Apple has incorporated a custom-designed C1X modem and N1 wireless chip to support faster cellular, Wi-Fi 7, and Bluetooth 6. It also includes Crash Detection and SOS Satellite Connectivity (limited regions). It supports up to eight e-SIMs, but only two can be active at all times.

Photography

The lone 48MP Fusion camera on the back captures pretty nice photos with good detail, even in low light. It offers 2X optical and 10X digital zoom. Thanks to an AI-powered feature, the 18MP Centre Stage front camera allows users to get group selfies vertically and not have to awkwardly hold the phone in landscape orientation.

It supports 4K HDR on both front and rear cameras. Like all iPhones, recorded videos on iPhone Air are stable and of excellent quality.

Final take-away

The iPhone Air delivers top-notch performance, on par with the Pro model, but its sleek design compromises on battery life and the lack of additional camera sensors is sorely missed.

DGCA to probe latest mid-air scare aboard Air India's Boeing aircraft

Move comes after pilots' body demands checks on all Boeing 787s in India

MUMBAI, DHNS/PTI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will carry out a detailed probe into the incident of the Ram Air Turbine (RAT) getting deployed in an Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft a few minutes before the Amritsar-Birmingham flight landed on Saturday, according to an official.

The aviation watchdog's move followed the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) to it, demanding a thorough probe into the electrical system of all Boeing 787s in the country.

In an aircraft, the RAT deploys automatically in the event of a dual-engine failure or total electronic or hydraulic failure. The RAT uses wind speed to generate emergency power.

A senior DGCA official told PTI that the RAT got deployed during the plane's landing at 400 feet, but the pilot did not report any related abnormality.

The maintenance for uncommanded RAT deployment recommended by Boeing had been carried out, and no discrepancy was observed, said the official, adding that the aircraft was released for service. The official also said the DGCA would carry out a detailed investigation into the incident.

"All electrical and hydraulic parameters were found normal, and the aircraft performed a safe landing at Birmingham," said Air India in a statement on Sunday.

The airline did not share specific details, including the number of people on board.

Meanwhile, the FIP letter stated: "Since the time Boeing-787 has been flying, there have been numerous incidents on 787 aircraft. We have strongly taken up with the Civil Aviation Ministry and AAIB (the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau) to thoroughly check the electrical system of all B-787s in the country."

The incident raised concerns after the June 12 Air India Flight 171 crash involving a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner soon after takeoff from Ahmedabad. It led to the death of 260 people, including 241 on board. There was only one survivor among the passengers.

The 15-page preliminary findings of the AAIB had said: "The aircraft achieved the maximum recorded airspeed of 180 Knots IAS at about 08:08:42 UTC and immediately thereafter, the Engine 1 and Engine 2 fuel cutoff switches transitioned from RUN to CUT OFF position one after another with a time gap of 01 sec... In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why he CUT OFF. The other pilot responded that he did not do so."

Wangchuk seeks judicial probe into Leh killings

SRINAGAR, DHNS: Incarcerated climate activist Sonam Wangchuk has called for an independent judicial inquiry into the killing of four civilians during the September 24 protests in Leh, even as he pledged to remain in jail until justice is done.

In a letter released from Jodhpur Central Jail on Sunday, Wangchuk expressed condolences to the families of the deceased.

"My heartfelt condolences to the families of those people who lost their lives and my prayers with people who are injured and arrested. There should be an independent judicial inquiry into the killing of our four people and, unless that is done, I am prepared to stay in jail," the letter, shared by advocate Mustafa Haji, a legal adviser to the Leh Apex Body (LAB), read.

In his message, Wangchuk reiterated his "wholehearted" support to the LAB and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) — the two groups jointly spearheading Ladakh's agitation for full statehood and inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to safeguard the region's land, jobs, and culture. "Whatever actions LAB takes in the interest of Ladakh, I am with them wholeheartedly," he wrote.

The activist appealed to people "to keep peace and unity and continue our struggle peacefully in the true Gandhian way of non-violence."

Curfew in parts of Cuttack after idol procession violence

CUTTACK/BHUBANESWAR, PTI

The Odisha government on Sunday night imposed prohibitory orders in 13 police station areas of Cuttack, after 25 people were injured in a fresh episode of violence, following a recent group clash during a Durga idol immersion procession.

Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh said the orders will be effective for 36 hours from 10 pm on Sunday.

CM Mohan Charan Majhi and BJD chief Naveen Patnaik urged people to maintain communal harmony.

Majhi and Patnaik's appeal came after the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) organised a motorcycle rally in the evening, defying the district administration's order.

People gather near objects set ablaze after fresh incidents of violence in Cuttack on Sunday. PTI

Internet suspended

In view of the prevailing law and order situation, the state government suspended internet services in areas under the Cuttack Municipal Corporation, Cuttack Development Authority (CDA), and the adjoining 42 Mauza region from 7 pm on Sunday to 7 pm on Monday.

According to officials, CCTV cameras installed along the route were damaged, and shops were allegedly set on fire after police stopped the procession.

The rally moved through key areas, including the Dargah Bazar locality, the epicentre of the violence that took place two days ago. Meanwhile, the VHP has given a 12-hour bandh call in the city on Monday in protest against the group clash.

Medical negligence? Nine-yr-old Kerala girl loses right hand after fracture treatment

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

A nine-year-old girl in Kerala has lost her right hand following a suspected case of medical negligence.

An inquiry report by the state Health Department, which reportedly denies any medical negligence, has triggered allegations of attempts to protect doctors.

Vinodini, the daughter of Palakkad-district residents Vinod and Praseetha, suffered a fracture on her right hand in a fall on September 24. Plastering was done at the Palakkad District Government Hospital.

Even though the girl subsequently complained of pain, doctors who treated her reportedly maintained that blood flow was not affected and hence there was no cause for concern.

By September 30, a foul smell began emanating from the hand, and hence she was again taken to the hospital. It turned out that the hand had become infected, and therefore had to be amputated.

The girl is now under treatment at the intensive care unit of the Kozhikode Medical College Hospital.

Praseetha said that the doctors applied plaster over the wound on her daughter's hand without treating it. That, she said, could have caused the wound to become infected and damage Vinodhini's hand.

Praseetha also said that even though Vinodhini continued to complain of pain, the doctors maintained that it could be only due to the fracture.

The girl's parents and social worker Kulathoor Jaisingh have petitioned Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, seeking action against the doctors.

Jaisingh said the circumstances in which the girl's hand was amputated should also be probed.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

HONEY, DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST BREAKUP?
I SURE DO!
IT WAS SO PAINFUL!
REALLY? WHAT HAPPENED?!
MILLIE MURPLE ATE THE BRATWURST OUT OF MY LUNCHBOX WHEN I WAS SIX... AND I NEVER GOT OVER IT!

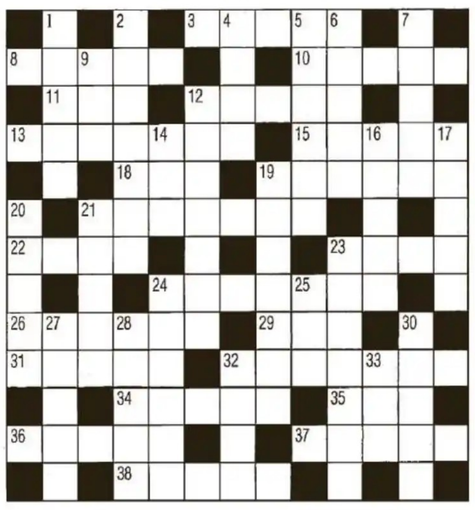
Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12260



CRYPTIC

ACROSS

3 Requiring substantial effort (like a bit of a heave?) (5)
8 One thing to do when a beast is cooked (5)
10 She has only an odd pair left (5)
11 A salient feature of perjury (3)
12 President possibly sat on (5)
13 It can protect a soldier, darling (7)
15 A man's name for mid-morning sickness? (5)
18 He joins mum at the Nag's Head (3)
19 Where, in France, to play a scale (6)
21 A ton of runs (7)
22 A Damoclean supporter (4)
23 Bring up at the back (4)
24 They join the surgeon's union (7)
26 For which the ball needs to be round (6)
29 Browne the belt (3)
31 It can be bottled in the Netherlands (5)
32 Explosive pieces of journalism (7)
34 Kept going to the devil? (5)
35 Conservative tax(3)
36 Her ladle's broken (5)
37 Pay it at last after a bit of a reminder (5)
38 Less modern ingredient of petrol, derv, etc. (5)

DOWN

1 Tasteful publicity for a volatile girl (5)
2 Ship's master roving out East (7)
4 Genuine contribution to speech therapy (4)
5 Uselessly moving the anvil to the rear of the smithy (6)
6 Town in Uruguay, presumably (5)
7 Copy me a duplicate letter! (5)
9 Teacher is wrong, yet right (3)
12 Horseman in Greek myth (7)
14 Harshly criticise all (3)
16 Saves broken pottery (5)
17 Discover there's money to be paid (5)
19 Excited, not uselessly (7)
20 A spell out of shape (5)
21 Many a measure is a sure thing (5)
23 Did the shifty thing, drove me mad (7)
24 A bitty story (6)
25 If taken, not beaten (3)
27 To back the mare as an option (5)
28 In a string quartet, the one with the biggest belly (5)
30 A teetotaller, I see, nevertheless high (5)
32 Concerning me and certain servicemen (4)
33 Beast taking a battering? (3)

ACROSS

3 Notions (5)
8 Sum (5)
10 Clyde, say (5)
11 In favour of (3)
12 Coach (5)
13 French bean (7)
15 Spanish man (5)
18 At present (3)
19 Be on one's guard (6)
21 Small rounded stones (7)
22 Muslim ruler (4)
23 Give up (4)
24 Of the sides (7)
26 Feline mammal (6)
29 Tree type (3)
31 Dance to this (5)
32 Repulsive (7)
34 Unit of purity of gold (5)
35 A craze (3)
36 To call on (5)
37 Italian city (5)
38 Abrupt (5)

DOWN

1 As yet (2,3)
2 Seaman (7)
4 Move quickly and suddenly (4)
5 Comes about (6)
6 Tendon (5)
7 Male voice (5)
9 High hill (3)
12 Tug (7)
14 Male swan (3)
16 Bellybutton (5)
17 Insurgent (5)
19 Advantage (7)
20 Snake poison (5)
21 Heaps (5)
23 Cautious (7)
24 Situate or place (6)
25 To free (3)
27 Herb (5)
28 Lawful (5)
30 Of sound or hearing (5)
32 Trilbies, say (4)
33 Rowing blade (3)

SOLUTIONS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2648

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1 Crumple, 5 Compass, 9 Instead, 10 Mongrel, 11 Adapt, 12 Play havoc, 13 Out of hand, 15 Split, 16 Sisal, 18 Close call, 21 Blood feud, 24 Haunt, 25 Exclude, 26 Pensive, 27 Tolstoy, 28 Hosiery.

DOWN: 1 Chicago, 2 Upstart, 3 Plentiful, 4 End up, 5 Come and go, 6 Munch, 7 Arrival, 8 Solicit, 14 Arch-enemy, 15 See things, 16 Subvert, 17 Stoical, 19 Abusive, 20 Lottery, 22 Daunt, 23 Depth.

◆SU-DO-KU-6718◆

	7		8					9
5		1			7			
		8		1			3	7
	4		3		5			
	5						8	
			1		4		9	
3	9			5		2		
			7			9		3
6					9		1	

medium

5	4	3	6	7	8	9	1	2
7	2	9	1	4	3	6	5	8
6	1	8	2	5	9	3	7	4
3	5	4	8	1	7	2	6	9
9	7	1	3	2	6	4	8	5
8	6	2	5	9	4	1	3	7
4	9	6	7	8	1	5	2	3
1	8	5	9	3	2	7	4	6
2	3	7	4	6	5	8	9	1

SOLUTION TO 6717

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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I1 E1 H4 T1 G2 I1 S1 — 4th Letter Triple — RACK 1
I1 G2 L1 R1 U1 E1 D2 — RACK 2
I1 C3 D2 S1 R1 E1 U1 — Triple Word Score — RACK 3
G2 L1 E1 Y4 R1 L1 A1 — Double Word Score — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

A1 C3 A1 U1 D2 A1 L1 — RACK 1 = 66
B3 L1 U1 N1 T1 L1 Y4 — RACK 2 = 62
D2 U1 T1 I1 E1 S1 — RACK 3 = 21
P3 O1 R1 T1 I1 C3 O1 — RACK 4 = 61
JUDD'S TOTAL 210

PAR SCORE 135-145

HITORI-3172

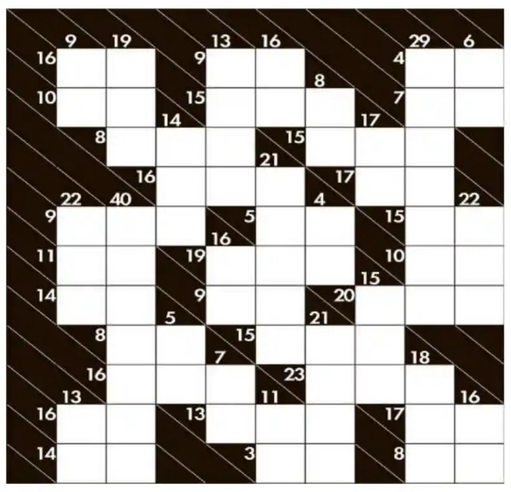
7	8	2	3	2	1	3	7
3	2	7	8	6	4	1	5
8	3	2	1	5	7	4	2
2	5	5	4	8	8	7	2
2	1	8	5	4	8	2	6
1	4	2	7	2	6	8	2
7	2	2	4	1	2	3	4
5	7	6	5	3	2	4	4

SOLUTION TO 3171

1	■	7	3	5	■	2	■
3	2	■	4	8	6	5	1
■	1	4	■	7	3	■	2
6	4	2	5	■	7	3	■
2	■	1	7	3	■	4	5
■	8	■	6	4	5	1	■
8	7	3	1	■	2	■	4
■	5	■	8	2	4	6	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3172



SOLUTION TO 3171

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3697

■								■
	■						5	
1		■		9		3		
			6		■	4		
	2			■			7	6
4			8		■	9	1	
	8	4		5	6	■		
	■				1		■	5
9					8			3

SOLUTION TO 3696

7	4	1	8	2	3	9	6	5
2	5	3	6	9	1	7	4	8
8	9	6	7	4	5	1	3	2
1	2	7	4	6	9	8	5	3
4	8	9	5	3	7	6	2	1
3	6	5	2	1	8	4	9	7
9	3	8	1	5	6	2	7	4
5	7	2	9	8	4	3	1	6
6	1	4	3	7	2	5	8	9

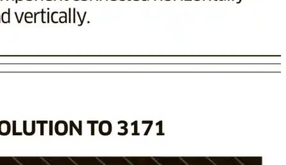
To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WRNOC
OIPHP
RITPMO
DMUEMI


Mama's Cafe
I didn't know you were off this afternoon.
Let's grab a bite and catch up.
THEY DIDN'T PLAN TO HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER, SO WHEN THE IDENTICAL TWINS DID, IT WAS ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" ○○○○○○○○ - ○○○○ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: SWIFT PHONE TANDEM BEMOAN
Answer: When the family played softball in their yard, there were — TWO HOME TEAMS

Hamas calls for swift hostage-prisoner swap as talks set to begin

Negotiators from two warring sides to meet in Egypt for crucial talks today

CAIRO, AFP

Hamas on Sunday called for a swift start to a hostage-prisoner exchange with Israel, as negotiators from the two warring sides were set to meet in Egypt for crucial talks aimed at ending the nearly two-year war in Gaza.

Foreign ministers of several countries, including Egypt, said the talks were a "real opportunity" to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable ceasefire.

"Hamas is very keen to reach an agreement to end the war and immediately begin the prisoner exchange process in accordance with the field conditions," a senior Hamas [...] min Netanyahu expressing hope that hostages held in Gaza could be released within days.

Netanyahu said on Saturday he had instructed negotiators to go to Egypt "to finalise the technical details", while Cairo confirmed it would also be hosting a delegation from Hamas for talks on "the ground conditions and details of the exchange of all Israeli detainees and Palestinian prisoners".

An Israeli government spokesperson said the country's delegation would be leaving Sunday evening, with talks slated to start Monday -- the [...] sance, and drone activity, and withdraw from inside Gaza City," a Palestinian source close to Hamas said, adding the group would "also halt their military operations" in parallel.

Militants seized 251 hostages during the October 7 attack, 47 of whom are still in Gaza. Of those, the Israeli military believes 25 are dead.

According to Trump's plan, in return for the hostages, Israel is expected to release 250 Palestinian prisoners with life sentences and more than 1,700 detainees from the Gaza Strip who were arrested after the war began.

Israeli bombing must stop for Gaza hostage release: Rubio

Israel needs to stop bombing Gaza for an eventual hostage release by Palestinian militant group Hamas to take place, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Sunday, reports AFP.

"I think the Israelis and everyone acknowledge you can't release hostages in the middle of strikes, so the strikes will have to stop," Rubio said, adding, "There can't be a war going on in the middle of it."

Pak minister warns India against future military conflict

Delhi had cautioned Islamabad against any misadventure

Khawaja Asif

Rajnath Singh

ISLAMABAD, PTI

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Sunday warned India against any future military conflict with Pakistan, saying a befitting response would be given in case of such hostilities.

Asif's response came days after India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi cautioned Pakistan against any misadventure.

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh on Friday said at least a dozen Pakistani military aircraft including US-origin F-16 jets were destroyed or damaged in Indian strikes during Operation Sindoor.

India has been maintaining that Pakistan pleaded for ending the hostilities in May after Indian military pounded various Pakistani military infrastructure.

Asif took to social media to respond sharply to what he called provocative statements from New Delhi's top security establishment.

He termed some recent statements by Indian military and political leaders as a "failed attempt" to restore their lost credibility, which in his words was result of "pressure" after defeat in the May clashes.

"The statements of the Indian military and political leadership are a failed attempt to restore their tarnished reputation. After such a decisive defeat with a score of 0-6, if they try again, the score, God willing, will be far better than before," he wrote.

He, however, did not elaborate what he meant by score of 0-6.

52 killed in landslides, floods triggered by rains in Nepal

KATHMANDU, PTI: At least 52 persons died in different places across eastern Nepal in 24 hours till Sunday morning due to landslides and floods triggered by overnight torrential rainfall, an Armed Police Force official said.

At 37, majority of the deaths -- from Saturday morning 10 am till Sunday 10 am -- were from the worst hit Koshi province that saw floods, landslides, lightning and road accidents adding to the toll even as monsoon was active in five of Nepal's seven provinces, namely, Koshi, Madhes, Bagmati, Gandaki and Lumbini.

Continuous rainfall since Friday pushed eight major rivers past the danger level in eastern Nepal, local media quoted the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology as saying on Sunday morning even as a red alert was also issued for areas around the Bagmati and East Rapti rivers.

Domestic flights resumed from Kathmandu after the sky was clear since Sunday morning, airport officials said. Flights to all provinces had been halted since Saturday due to poor weather conditions.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Ukrainian rescuers evacuate an injured resident following a Russian air attack in Lviv region on Sunday. Five people died in a combined drone and missile strike. AFP

Rescue underway for 1,000 climbers stranded on Mt Everest

Rescue efforts were underway on Sunday in the remote Tibetan slopes of Mount Everest where a blizzard has trapped nearly 1,000 people in campsites on the eastern side of the world's tallest mountain, reports PTI from Beijing.

Hundreds of local villagers and rescue teams have been deployed to clear out snow blocking access to the area which sits at an altitude of more than 4,900 metres.

Some tourists have already been rescued, BBC reported, quoting local media.

Heavy snowfall began on Friday evening and has intensified on the eastern slopes of Mount Everest in Tibet, which is an area popular with climbers and hikers. Neighbouring Nepal too has been battered by heavy rains which triggered landslides and flash floods resulting in the death of 52 people.

Mt Everest, called Mt Qomolangma in China, is the world's highest peak at over 8,849 metres.

Meanwhile, Typhoon Matmo, the 21st named storm of the 2025 Pacific typhoon season, made landfall along the eastern coast of Xuwen County, Zhanjiang City in south China's Guangdong Province on Sunday.

OPEC+ to raise oil production

A group of countries that are part of the OPEC+ alliance of oil-exporting countries has agreed to a small boost in oil production, citing a steady global economic outlook, reports AP from New York.

The group said after a virtual meeting on Sunday that it will raise oil production by 137,000 barrels per day in November, they same amount it announced for October.

The group has been raising output slightly in a series of boosts all year, after announcing cuts in 2023 and 2024.

In a statement the group said the move was due to "a steady global economic outlook and current healthy market fundamentals." It added the production adjustments may be paused or reversed as market conditions evolve.

France unveils new government amid political deadlock

PARIS, AFP: French President Emmanuel Macron named a new government on Sunday, putting together a team under Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu as he struggles to pull the country out of a political crisis.

The new cabinet lineup was unveiled nearly a month after the appointment of Lecornu, Macron's seventh prime minister.

The latest premier risks being toppled by the opposition in a deeply divided parliament despite his efforts to obtain cross-party support.

Bruno Le Maire, who served as economy minister from 2017 to 2024, was named defence minister.

Roland Lescure was named to take over the economy portfolio. Many of the other key ministers kept their jobs.

The presidency unveiled a total of 18 names, with more appointments to be announced at a later stage.

Trump administration declares US cities war zones

CHICAGO, AFP

The Trump administration branded Chicago a "war zone" Sunday as a justification for deploying soldiers against the will of local Democratic officials, while a judge blocked the White House from sending troops to another Democratic-run city.

An escalating political crisis across the country pits President Donald Trump's anti-crime and migration crackdown against opposition Democrats who accuse him of an authoritarian power grab.

In the newest flashpoint, Trump late Saturday authorized deployment of 300 National Guard soldiers to Chicago, the third-largest city in the United States, despite the opposition of elected leaders including the mayor and state Governor JB Pritzker.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem defended the move on Sunday, claiming on Fox News that Chicago is "a war zone."

But Pritzker, speaking on CNN's "State of the Union" show, accused Republicans of aiming to sow "mayhem on the ground. They want to create the war zone, so that they can send in even more troops."

"They need to get the heck out," he said.

A CBS poll released on Sunday found that 42% of Americans favor deploying the National Guard to cities, compared to 58% who oppose it.

Trump -- who last Tuesday spoke of using the military for a "war from within" -- shows no sign of backing off his hardline campaign.In an untrue claim Sunday, he said: "Portland is burning to the ground. It's insurrectionists all over the place."

Key ally Mike Johnson, the Republican speaker of the House of Representatives, echoed the president's rhetoric Sunday, telling NBC's "Meet the Press" that National Guard troops deployed in the US capital Washington had responded to a "literal war zone."

But Trump's campaign to use the military on home soil hit a roadblock on Saturday in Portland, Oregon, when a court ruled deployment was unlawful.

SPORT

Mountain Jewel wins feature

HYDERABAD RESULTS

Mountain Jewel, from the stables of Prasanna Kumar and ridden by Antony Raj, won the Race2win Foundation Hyderabad Deccan Derby on Sunday.

1. Delhi Race Club Cup - 1400M: NRI Star (Trevor Patel) 1; Aos Si (Imran Chisty) 2; Deccan Ranger (Akshay Kumar) 3; Bold Indian (Mukesh Kumar) 4; Wb: 5-1/2, 2-1/4, 1L. T: 1:30.45. TB: Srinivas Reddy. Fav: Rani Ruckus.

2. Bangalore Turf Club Cup -1600M: Alcahol Free (Rafique Sk) 1; Take A Breath (Sonu Kumar) 2; Nkalanzinzi (Imran Chisty) 3; Sadiya (HM Akshay) 4; Wb: 3-1/4, 9, 3/4L. T: 1:41.62. TB: Mukesh Kumar. Fav: Take A Breath.

3. Madras Race Club Cup - 1800M: Black Dust (Sai Kumar) 1; Onslaught (Neeraj Rawal) 2; Misty Night (Akshay Kumar) 3; Sunny Day (Ajeeth Kumar) 4; Wb: 4, 2-1/2, 2L. T: 1:53.18. TB: Prasad Raju. Fav: Miss Smiley Angel.

4. Royal Calcutta Turf Club Cup (Div I) - 1200M: Miss Maya (Sonu Kumar) 1; High Speed Dive (Gaurav Singh) 2; Star Forever (Ajay Kumar) 3; Exclusive Black (Chisty) 4; Wb: 1-1/4L, Hd, Nk. 1:14.33. TB: Nilesh Rawal. Fav: High Speed Dive.

5. Mysore Race Club Cup - 1200M: Safala (Mukesh Kumar) 1; Turiya (Trevor Patel) 2; N R I Range (HM Akshay) 3; Trust Me (Naresh) 4; Wb: 3-1/4, 4, 1/2L. T: 1:14.81. TB: Magan Singh. Fav: Turiya.

6. Royal Western India Turf Club Cup - 1100M: Petaluma (G Vivek) 1; Arion One (Afroz Khan) 2; Emrald Touch (Ajay Kumar) 3; Lifes Journey (Gaurav Singh) 4; Wb: 3/4L, Nk, Shd. . T: 1:07.78. TB: Leo Desilva. Fav: Petaluma.

7. Turf Authorities Of India Cup - 1400M: Nonpariel (Sonu Kumar) 1; Diablo (Sai Kumar) 2; Uchchaihshravas (Neeraj Rawal) 3; Huntingdon (Likith Appu) 4; Wb: 1, 4, 3-1/2L. T: 1:26.53. TB: D Netto. Fav: Nonpariel.

8. Race2win Foundation Hyderabad Deccan Derby - 2000M: Mountain Jewel (Antony Raj) 1; Red Bishop (Trevor Patel) 2; Northern Waves (Mukesh Kumar) 3; Tolkien (Akshay Kumar) 4; Wb: Nk, 7-1/2, 2-1/2l. T: 2:05.15. TB: Prasanna Kumar. Fav: Red Bishop.

9. Royal Calcutta Turf Club Cup (Div II) - 1200M: Cherie Chevalier (Sai Kumar) 1; N R I Sport (HM Akshay) 2; Timeless Vision (Sandesh) 3; Dyanoosh (Ajay Kumar) 4; Wb: 3, 2-1/2, 1/2L. T: 1:13.52. TB: Prasad Raju. Fav: Timeless Vision.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 41w; 15, 12, 16p; Fc: Rs 79; Q: Rs 34; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 36; Tri: Rs 123 & 100; Ex: Rs 1,637 & 1,754. **II race:** Rs 46w; Rs 15, 10, 16p; Fc: Rs 88; Q: Rs 35; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 34; Tri: Rs 153 & 142; Ex: Rs 823 & 457. **III race:** Rs 41w; 14, 11, 12p; Fc: Rs 379; Q: Rs 258; Shp: Rs 40; Thp: Rs 42; Tri: Rs 496 & 137; Ex: Rs 1,665 & 1,126. **IV race:** Rs 71w; 24, 13, 30p; Fc: Rs 177; Q: Rs 141; Shp: Rs 39; Thp: Rs 71; Tri: Rs 7,620 & 1,758: Ex: Rs 23,221 & 9,951. **V race:** Rs 46w; 15, 10, 23p; Fc: Rs 84; Q: Rs 25; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 54; Tri: Rs 534 & 310; Ex: Rs 16,731 & 4,302. **VI race:** Rs 27w; 14, 38, 22p; Fc: Rs 367; Q: Rs 250; Shp: Rs 104; Thp: Rs 58; Tri: Rs 2,729 & 731; Ex: Rs 38,793 & 16,625. **VII race:** Rs 17w; 11, 20, 13p; Fc: Rs 50; Q: Rs 44; Shp: Rs 45; Thp: Rs 57; Tri: Rs 153 & 42; Ex: Rs 1,395 & 1,513. **VIII race:** Rs 59w; 16, 11, 51p; Fc: Rs 112; Q: Rs 48; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 103; Tri: Rs 2,564 & 1,859; Ex: Rs 26,843 & 6,902. **IX race:** Rs 43w; 15, 33, 12p; Fc: Rs 1,669; Q: Rs 975; Shp: Rs 96; Thp: Rs 65; Tri: Rs 2,045 & 438; Ex: Rs 12,374 & 6,363. **I jackpot:** Rs 87,029 (1). **Runner-up:** Rs 4,662 (8). **II jackpot:** 8,347 (76). **Runner-up:** Rs 749 (363). **I treble:** Rs 6,054 (1). **II treble:** Rs 953 (7). **III treble:** Rs 681 (30).

WATER POLO ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

India's chances take a hit

Kazakhstan down Japan; Iran have it easy against Hong Kong, China

ADITYA K HALDER
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Indian men's water polo team's hopes of reaching the knockout stage took a serious dent on Sunday as they went down 11-19 to Thailand in their second group match at the Asian Aquatics Championships here. The defeat came barely a day after the side's 8-20 loss to World No. 26 Singapore, leaving India winless after two games.

The back-to-back defeats have thrown the hosts' quarterfinal chances in doubt, especially since Thailand were considered the most beatable side in a group that also features powerhouses Japan and Kazakhstan.

Underdogs India, who need to finish among the top four in the five-nation pool, are now staring at an uphill task to stay alive in the competition. A top-four finish would also ensure automatic qualification for next year's Asian Games.

India's Uday Utekar (with the ball) prepares to take a shot at goal against Thailand during their Group B match in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Despite being unranked, India showed some spark early in the contest. Wing forward Uday Utekar opened the scoring to give the home side an early lead before Thailand's Jiramate Paedpeenong responded with two quick goals, including one from a penalty, to swing the momentum away.

Gaurav Mahajani's equaliser gave the Indian crowd something to cheer for, but Thailand's Suteenan Kaewmanee struck just before the first-quarter buzzer to restore his side's advantage. The home team showed fight in the next period, with Ankit Prasad converting a penalty and Utekar adding his second. Yet Kaewmanee's precision kept the Thais ahead as the quarter ended 4-4.

It was all downhill from there as Thailand launched an unrelenting attack, scoring seven goals in three minutes to storm to an 11-4 lead by half-time. India's defence crumbled under pressure, and repeated errors in front of goal made matters worse.

Though the Indians pressed forward in the closing stages, poor finishing and unnecessary fouls handed Thailand several easy penalties. By the final whistle, the visitors sealed a comfortable 19-11 win.

With the loss, India remain the only team in Group A without a point, while the other four teams sit tied on three points each. The hosts next face table-toppers Kazakhstan, needing nothing short of an upset to keep their quarterfinal hopes alive.

Results: Men: India: 11 lt to Thailand: 19; Japan: 12 lt to Kazakhstan: 14; Iran: 22 bt Hong Kong, China: 10. **Women:** Uzbekistan: 13 lt to Japan: 27; Hong Kong: 2 lt to China: 28.

Shriyanshi Valishetty. X

Valishetty clinches Al Ain Masters

AL AIN (UAE), PTI: Young Indian shuttler Shriyanshi Valishetty clinched her maiden BWF Super 100 title in the women's singles category at the USD 120,000 Al Ain Masters, defeating compatriot Tasnim Mir in a pulsating three-game final here on Sunday.

The 18-year-old from Telangana, who trains at the Pullela Gopichand Academy, showed remarkable composure to fight back from a game down and prevail 15-21, 22-20, 21-7 in a 49-minute summit clash.

Valishetty squandered a four-point lead in the opening game as Tasnim rallied from 4-8 to 14-9 to pocket the game.

The second game turned into a neck-and-neck battle. Valishetty erased an early 1-4 deficit to go up 8-5 and later 17-14.

Hazare winners awarded Rs 50 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS

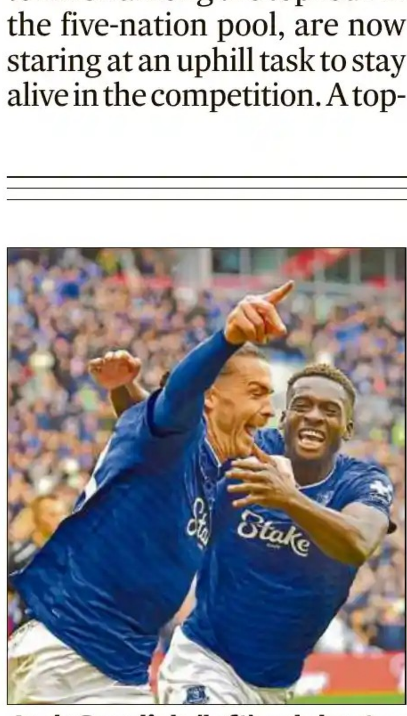
The Mayank Agarwal-led Karnataka side, which won the Vijay Hazare Trophy after a gap of five years by beating Vidarbha in the final, walked away with the biggest smiles after being rewarded Rs 50 lakh for their spoils at the Karnataka State Cricket Association annual awards ceremony at the M Chinnaswamy stadium here on Sunday.

Karnataka fast bowler V Koushik and upcoming under-19 all-rounder Dheeraj J Gowda also stole some spotlight for themselves by picking up two and three individual trophies respectively.

Smaran R, who finished with 516 runs, walked away with the honours for being Karnataka's highest run-getter in the Ranji Trophy

KSCA awards (winners only): Group I (League Cum Knockout): Division I for Mirza Ismail Shield: Swastic Union Cricket Club (1).
Division II for MAT Acharya Shield: Century Cricketers.
Division III for Nassur Memorial Shield: Jayanagar Cricketers.
Division IV for Metro Shield: Yankees Cricket Club.
Division V for JB Mallaradhya Shield: Zodiac Cricket Club.
Group II Division II: Dell Cricket Club.
G Kasturirangan Memorial Trophy (T20): Swastic Union Cricket Club (2).
U-19 Inter-club: Swastic Union Cricket Club (1).
U-16 Inter-club: Jawahar Sports Club (1).
U-14 Inter-club: Swastic Union Cricket Club (1).
U-12 Inter-club: Bangalore Sports Club.
U-16 Inter-school Division I for KM Ramprasad Shield: Holy Saint English School.
U-16 Inter-school Division II for KM Ramprasad Shield: Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya.
U-16 Inter-school Division III for KM Ramprasad Shield: Vydehi School Of Excellence.
U-14 Inter-school Division I for BT Ramaiah Shied: Max Muller High School.
U-14 Inter-school Division II for BT Ramaiah Shied: Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya.
U-14 Inter-school Division III for BT Ramaiah Shied: Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir, Bengaluru East.
Special awards (BCCI domestic tournaments): Men: Ranji Trophy: Highest run-getter: Smaran R; **Highest wicket-taker:** Koushik V.
Vijay Hazare Trophy (One day): Highest run-getter: Mayank Agarwal; **Highest wicket-taker:** Koushik V.
Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (T20): Highest run-getter: KL Shrihith; **Highest wicket-taker:** Shreyas Gopal.
U-23 Col. CK Nayudu Trophy (Multi day): Highest run-getter: Macneil Hadley Noronha; **Highest wicket-taker:** Shashikumar K.
U-23 State 'A' One Day Trophy: Highest run-getter: Prakhar Chaturvedi; **Highest wicket-taker:** Manvanth Kumar L.
U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy (Multi day): Highest run-getter: Dheeraj J Gowda; **Highest wicket-taker:** Dheeraj J Gowda.
U-19 Vinoo Mankad Trophy (One day): Highest run-getter: Sidharth Akhil; **Highest wicket-taker:** Dheeraj J Gowda.
U-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy (Multi-day): Highest run-getter: Anvay Dravid; **Highest wicket-taker:** Dhyaan M Hiremath.
Women: Senior ODI: Highest run-getter: Vrinda Dinesh; **Highest wicket-taker:** Monica C Patil.
Senior T20: Highest run-getter: Vrinda Dinesh; **Highest wicket-taker:** Pooja Kumari M.
U-23 ODI Trophy: Highest run-getter: Mithila Vinod; **Highest wicket-taker:** Saloni P.
U-23 T20 Trophy: Highest run-getter: Krishika Reddy; **Highest wicket-taker:** Saloni P.
U-19 ODI Trophy: Highest run-getter: Lavanya Chalana; **Highest wicket-taker:** Veda Varshini V.
U-19 T20 Trophy: Highest run-getter: Lavanya Chalana; **Highest wicket-taker:** Srinithi P Rai.
U-15 ODI Trophy: Highest run-getter: Liyanka Shetty; **Highest wicket-taker:** Anvita Narendra Mysore.

The Karnataka team, winners of last season's Vijay Hazare Trophy, were felicitated by KSCA at their annual awards in Bengaluru on Sunday. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS


Jack Grealish (left) celebrates with Tim Iroegbunam after scoring Everton's last-gasp winner over Crystal Palace on Sunday. AFP

Grealish ends Palace's unbeaten run

LONDON, AFP

Newcastle beat Nottingham Forest 2-0 to extend Ange Postecoglou's wait for a win, while Crystal Palace's 19-game unbeaten run was ended by Jack Grealish's late winner for Everton on Sunday.

Postecoglou faced calls from the Forest fans for him to be sacked after just six games in the closing stages of Thursday's 3-2 Europa League defeat to Midtjylland.

The Australian is the first Forest boss in over 100 years to fail to win in his first seven games and now faces an anxious wait to see if club owner Evangelos Marinakis decides to make another managerial change over.

Haaland fires City

Erling Haaland extended his blistering start to the season as the Manchester City striker sealed a 1-0 win at Brentford.

Haaland netted early in the first half in west London to give City a third win in their last four Premier League games.

The peerless 25-year-old already has 12 goals in nine appearances in all competitions.

Chelsea beat Liverpool

Liverpool crashed to a third successive defeat as Estevao Willian's last-gasp strike condemned the spluttering Premier League champions to a 2-1 defeat against Chelsea on Saturday in London.

Results: Brentford: 0 lt to Manchester City: 1 (Haaland 9th); Aston Villa: 2 (Malen 25th, 63rd) bt Burnley: 1 (Ugochukwu 78th); Everton: 2 (Ndiaye 76th pen, Grealish 90th+3) bt Crystal Palace: 1 (Munoz 37th); Newcastle: 2 (Guimaraes 58th, Woltemade 84th pen) bt Nottingham Forest: 0; Wolves: 1 (Verbruggen 21st own goal) drew with Brighton: 1 (van Hecke 86th); Chelsea: 2 (Caicedo 14th, Estevao 90th+5) bt Liverpool: 1 (Gakpo 63rd).

CRICKET WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

CLASSY INDIA steamroll Pakistan

Kranti, Deepti pick 3 wkts each in 88-run win over arch-rivals

COLOMBO, PTI

The contrasting knocks of Harleen Deol and Richa Ghosh found ample support from the bowlers as India etched a commanding 88-run win over Pakistan in a drama-filled ICC Women's World Cup match here on Sunday.

Deol's composed 46 off 65 balls and Richa Ghosh's spirited 20-ball 35 lifted India to a competitive 247 on a sluggish track after the match referee erroneously ruled the toss in favour of Pakistan, who elected to bowl first.

Pacer Kranti Gaud (3/20) dismantled Pakistan's top order while the spinners cleaned up the middle-order and tail, bundling them out for 159, despite a valiant effort from Sidra Amin (81 off 106 balls).

With this win, India extended their perfect head to head record to 12-0 in ODIs.

The match moved on familiar lines and the expected hostilities were conspicuous by its absence, but the day was not entirely bereft of drama.

India continued their "no-handshake" policy at the toss or after the match, sticking to the precedent set during the men's Asia Cup in the UAE.

The gaffe during the toss added to the list of amusements which later swelled through a bizarre run out and the 15-minute delay due to bugs invading the field. Cutting back to cricketing matters, Pakistan's chase of 248 began in chaos when opener Muneeba Ali (2) was sensationally run out.

Facing Gaud, she survived an initial leg-before appeal which was ruled not out, but as she momentarily wandered out of the crease with the ball still in play. An alert Deepti Sharma swooped in with a direct hit to break the stumps with Muneeba's bat still in the air, much to the disappointment of skipper Fatima Sana who argued with the umpire.

Gaud then struck twice in quick succession, first dismissing Sadaf Shamas (6), caught off her own bowling, and then removing Aliya Riaz (2), leaving Pakistan reeling at 26/3.

As the Indian bowlers tightened their grip, Sidra and Natalia Pervaiz (33) offered resistance with a 69-run stand, briefly steadying the innings before the inevitable collapse followed.

Earlier, Indian batters struggled to get going on a slow track but Deol's knock provided some stability in the middle overs, during Richa's cameo, pushing India near the 250-run mark.

Kranti Goud (left) and Deepti Sharma picked up three wickets apiece during India's 88-run win over Pakistan at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. (AP/PTI)

Brief scores: India: 247 all out in 50 overs (Pratika Rawal 31, Harleen Deol 46, Jemimah Rodrigues 32, Deepti Sharma 25, Richa Ghosh 35 n.o.; Sadia Iqbal 2-47, Diana Baig 4-69, Fatima Sana 2-38) bt Pakistan: 159 all out in 43 overs (Sidra Amin 81, Natalia Pervaiz 33; Kranti Goud 3-20, Sneh Rana 2-38, Deepti Sharma 3-45). **Result:** India won by 88 runs. **PoM:** Kranti Goud. **India's next match:** vs South Africa (Oct 9, Vizag). **Today's match:** New Zealand vs South Africa

Match referee calls it wrong, awards toss to Pakistan

In what looked like a mix up during the toss proceedings for India's Women's World Cup contest here on Sunday, match referee Shandre Fritz mistakenly declared Pakistan skipper Fatima Sana the winner, reports PTI from Colombo.

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur flipped the coin, and Sana called "tails," but South African Fritz probably heard it as "heads," a cue that Australian presenter Mel Jones also followed.

The coin landed heads up, and the result went Pakistan's way, allowing the Women in Green to opt for bowling first under overcast conditions.

Harmanpreet, who didn't shake hands with Sana, also didn't react and approached Jones for a chat after the Pakistan skipper.

CRICKET IRANI CUP

Vidarbha trounce RoI to triumph

Dubey claims 4 as Ranji champs post 93-run victory

NAGPUR, PTI

Yash Dhull smashed his way to 92 but Vidarbha bowling unit proved too good for Rest of India as they comfortably won the Irani Cup by 93 runs here on Sunday.

Chasing a target of 361, Rest of India were all out for 267 in the second session of the fifth day with left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey (4/73) and pacer Yash Thakur (2/47) doing bulk of the damage. Vidarbha now have played three Irani Cup games and won all three.

Credit would go to Dubey and Thakur -- both of whom had a match-haul of six wickets and did well enough to get majority of the 20 Rest of India wickets across two innings. Rest had slumped to 133 for six during the first session on the final morning but it was Dhull and Manav Suthar (56), who got Rest of India back in the game with a 104-run stand for the seventh wicket stand.

However it was Thakur who put paid to Rest's hopes of an improbable win when Dhull tried to slash him but Atharva Taide at deep third man boundary took a well-judged catch inches inside the boundary ropes. The dismissal was followed by an ugly incident where bowler Thakur and Delhi man Dhull nearly came to exchanging blows after the former had given the batter a rather rude send off. The two umpires and Vidarbha fielders came between them to calm things but both will get some sort of sanction from the match referee. Off the very next ball, Thakur cleaned up Akash Deep and before Dubey, last year's highest wicket-taker in Ranji Trophy, ended the game in style.

For Vidarbha, Atharva Taide, who scored 143 in their first essay, was adjudged player of the match.

Brief scores (final): Vidarbha: 342 and 232 bt Rest of India: 214 and (O/N: 30/2): 267 all out in 73.5 overs (Yash Dhull 92, Manav Suthar 56; Harsh Dubey 4-73, Yash Thakur 2-47). **Result:** Vidarbha won by 93 runs.

Vidarbha players celebrate after beating Rest of India to win the Irani Cup at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur on Sunday. PTI

Mercedes' George Russell with the trophy. REUTERS

Russell wins as McLaren seal constructors' title

SINGAPORE, AFP: Mercedes' George Russell won the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday ahead of Max Verstappen and Lando Norris, as McLaren clinched the Formula One constructors' championship.

Oscar Piastri was fourth, meaning his lead over McLaren teammate Norris at the top of the drivers' standings was cut to 22 points.

The 27 points scored by Piastri and Norris were more than enough for McLaren to equal the record set by Red Bull in 2023 by winning the team title with six races to spare.

It was McLaren's second title in a row and 10th in the team's history, and was won despite their two drivers clashing in the opening turns with sparks flying as Norris got the better of Piastri.

"They have driven brilliantly all season. You can't win the constructors' without two awesome racing drivers," said McLaren CEO Zak Brown.

"As you can see, we are letting them race. That was a bit more of a nail-biter there, but they race hard, they race clean, they race to win.

"A lot of racing to go and hopefully a lot more victories for both of them."

Double delight for Rahil, Jagathishree

BENGALURU, DHNS

Rahil Pillarisetty from Hyderabad and local ace Jagathishree Kumaresan achieved a double apiece in their respective categories to finish the fourth round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2025 at the Madras International Circuit on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Varun Patil **(in pic)** (Mad Rabbit Racing) from Bengaluru took the honours in the Stock 301-400cc after outing after the front-runners crash.

Results: National Championship: Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (6 laps): Rahil Pillarisetty (Hyderabad, RACR Castrol Power 1) (10:57.165) 1; Sarthak Chavan (Pune, Petronas TVS Racing) (11:00.925) 2; Rakshith Dave (Chennai, Petronas TVS Racing) (11:06.253) 3.
Pro-Stock 200cc Open: Soorya PM (Chennai, Chandra LGE Racing) (11:51.219) 1; Savion Sabu (Bengaluru, Mad Rabbit Racing) (11:51.313) 2; Venkatesh Iyyappan (Chennai, Chandra LGE Racing) (11:54.168) 3.
Super Stock Intermediate 165cc: Raj Kumar (Coimbatore, Motul Sparks Racing) (12:44.549) 1; Kamal Navas (Chennai, Pvt) (12:44.646) 2; G Balaji (Chennai, Pvt) (12:48.886) 3.
Stock 301-400cc (Novice): Varun Patil (Bengaluru, Mad Rabbit Racing) (12:19.482) 1; Lupin Takkalappali (Hyderabad, MAI Racing) (12:20.605) 2; Raivat Dhar (Jammu, MAI Racing) (12:23.838) 3.
Stock 165cc (Novice): Rajender Beedani (Hyderabad, MAI Racing) (13:02.494) 1; Lal Nunsanga (Aizawl, Motul Sparks Racing) (13:02.569) 2; Amit Prasad (Mysuru, Mad Rabbit Racing) (13:08.848) 3.
Girls (Stock 165cc) (4 laps): Jagathishree Kumaresan (Chennai, One Racing) (08:43.690) 1; Ann Jennifer AS (Chennai, Motul Sparks Racing) (08:43.968) 2; Lani Zena Fernandez (Puducherry, RACR Castrol Power 1) (08:52.057) 3.
Petronas TVS One-Make Championship: Expert (Apache RR 310): G Balaji (Chennai) (11:50.204) 1; Md Samrul Zubair (Hyderabad) (11:52.966) 2; Kaushik Subbiah Ganesan (Chennai) (11:53.507) 3.
Rookie (Apache RTR 200): Hari Haran R (Coimbatore) (13:12.146) 1; Akarsh Jangam (Vijayawada) (13:19.312) 2; Steve Waugh Sugi S (Tiruchirapalli) (13:25.978) 3.

Simran, Preethi take silver as India finish with a record 22 medals

NEW DELHI, PTI

Simran Sharma battled exhaustion and a stiff back to turn in an inspired performance on way to clinching the women's 200m T12 silver on a hot and humid evening as India finished their World Para Athletics Championships with a record 22 medals, here Sunday.

On a day of high drama, when India won three silver and a bronze to finish with six gold, nine silver and seven bronze, women's 100m T35 athlete, Preethi Pal showed mental fortitude in ample measure to win silver after a starter pistol malfunction saw her compete twice in stifling conditions.

Paris Paralympics gold medallist in F41 javelin event Navdeep Singh, favourite to win gold on home turf, also settled for silver as India finished 10th on the medals table -- a big disappointment as the hosts could have easily finished fourth had Navdeep and high jumper Praveen Kumar lived up to their top billing.

Preethi Pal won silver in the women's 100m T35 event at the World Para Athletics Championships on Sunday. X

Men's 200m T44 athlete Sandeep then unexpectedly won bronze with a personal best time of 23.60 seconds to give India some more reason to celebrate.

Simran was all fired up in the women's 200m T12 event despite the champion athlete running her sixth sprint race in two days. The 25-year-old Uttar Pradesh para athlete, who has significant visual limitation and runs with a sighted guide to assist her during her races, added a silver to the 100m T12 gold she won on Friday with an Asian record and personal best time of 24.46 second.

Simran initially finished third behind Venezuela's Alejandra Perez Lopez, and Brazil's Clara Barros de Silva (24.42 seconds), but the former was disqualified leading to the Indian moving up to second spot.

Bhullar falters on final day

JAKARTA, PTI: Gaganjeet Bhullar's hopes of a sixth win in Indonesia were dashed on the final day as Australian Wade Ormsby defeated Scott Vincent from Zimbabwe on the first hole of a sudden-death play-off to claim the Jakarta International Championship here Sunday.

The 45-year-old Ormsby had gone into the final round tied on 11-under with Vincent, the International Series Morocco victor, and 2023 BNI Indonesian Masters champion Bhullar.

Although Bhullar and Vincent both picked up a birdie on the first, the Indian dropped three shots on the front nine to fall away. Two early birdies after the turn gave the Indian hope, but two costly doubles on 15 and 18 dashed any hope he had.

That left Vincent and Ormsby in a play-off, and the man from Down Under triumphed.

Nakamura draws flak for celebration

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hikaru Nakamura stunned world champion D Gukesh as India were whitewashed 0-5 by USA in the first Checkmate, an evening of chess presented as a live arena spectacle in Arlington, USA.

While the match had many tense moments and players from both teams created winning chances, USA rose up to the occasion and scored several clutch wins.

Playing in front of a raucous home crowd, Nakamura's animated celebration right after his victory over Gukesh came in for flak.

At the end of the contest, the 38-year-old was seen getting up from his chair to pick up Gukesh's king and throw the piece at the spectators while egging them to cheer louder.

The American's behavior towards his 18-year-old opponent drew ire online with many accusing Nakamura of being disrespectful and immature. Gukesh, who appeared to be taken aback by Nakamura's antics, chose to remain calm and was praised by fans for handling the situation with composure.

USA's Hikaru Nakamura (right) throws D Gukesh's king into the crowd. X

Playing with black pieces, the Indians suffered a rough loss and would look to bounce back with white pieces in the return match in India.

(WITH PTI INPUTS)

IN BRIEF

TT technical officials from Karnataka

▸ Karnataka's TG Upadhya (deputy referees) and KR Manjunatha (blue badge umpires) will be two of the several technical officials for the 28th ITTF-ATTU Asian TT C'ships in Bhubaneshwar, reports DHNS.

Messi helps Miami win

▸ Allende and Jordi Alba each scored two goals, Lionel Messi had three assists and Inter Miami win 4-1, reports AFP from USA.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's World Cup: New Zealand vs South Africa **(3 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

TENNIS

Shanghai Masters: Day 6 **(10 am). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

Caribbean cricket in terminal decline

SIDNEY KIRAN
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

One could sense the embarrassment on Roston Chase's face in the post-match press conference following the opening Test here on Saturday. Yes, the West Indies skipper candidly admitted prior to the game that his largely inexperienced wards didn't stand a chance against mighty India, but the abject capitulation inside three days exposed the terminal decline Caribbean cricket has been on for the last two decades.

Once the mighty force of world cricket, the 'Calipso Kings' - with their heady cocktail of fearsome fast bowlers and belligerent batters wreaking havoc at will - were literally unbeatable between the 1970s and late 1980s. Such was their sheer brilliance and nonchalant arrogance, they were universally loved for their ability to stand up to the English and Australians. Videos from the vault are still savoured.

That was then. Since the start of the millennium, they've been steadily on the slide, and worse, a recovery is a wishful hope. And the numbers reveal a harsh reality. Let's consider their head-to-head record against India. The last time the West Indies beat India in a Test series was way back in the 2002-03 series where they won 2-1. Since then, India have ruled the West Indies with an iron fist, winning eight consecutive series and haven't lost a single Test. West Indies' last victory in India was in December 1994 in Mohali.

It's been 31 years since West Indies won a Test against India in India with their last success coming in December 1994 in Mohali. PTI

Their performance versus Australia is even more worrying. West Indies last managed to beat Australia in a series way back in 1992-93, with two drawn verdicts since then being their best result against 2023 World Test Championship winners. West Indies created a stir when they posted an against-all-odds triumph at Brisbane in January 2024 for a series-levelling 1-1 win, but the last engagement between the two sides early this year showed Gabba was just a flash in the pan. Australia bowled out the West Indies for 27 — the second lowest Test innings total — in the third Test at Sabina Park, that forced Cricket West Indies to launch an immediate review. For the record, Australia won 3-0 — all in thumping fashion.

ROSTON CHASE
West Indies captain

"There is obviously a struggle in the Caribbean for finances. So whatever help we can get, I hope that we do get it so that we could strengthen the infrastructure for cricket.

West Indies' worst record is against current World Test Championship winners South Africa. Barring the first series fought between the two sides in 1991-92, the West Indies have lost 10 consecutive series against the Rainbow Nation and managed a mere two Test wins.

The same applies against New Zealand too, the inaugural World Test Championship winners.

West Indies beat the Kiwis in a Test series way back in 2012-13 and ended up on the wrong side of the line in four consecutive rubbers. In the last 15 years, they've beaten New Zealand just once in a Test.

The only major nation against whom the West Indies still manage to hold a candle is England, beating them three times in a series since the start of the millennium. Barring that, they have looked completely out of place against the Englishmen, with the result of a game a foregone conclusion even before they step onto the field.

Take even the current side that has arrived in India. No batter from the top or middle order averages above 30, with opener Tangerine Chanderpaul, eldest son of West Indies great Shivnarine Chanderpaul, boasting the best at 29.89. Compare that to India, where even lower-order batter Washington Sundar averages 44.76 after 14 games.

The problems facing West Indies cricket are multifold. Administrative apathy, financial mismanagement, lack of a proper domestic structure, collapsing grassroots system, declining coaching standards, player exodus to franchise leagues across the world... the reasons can run into pages.

Just before the start of the opening Test here, the CWI spelt out the findings of the Emergency Cricket Strategy Committee meeting. It listed out the challenges they are facing and laid out roadmaps — both short and long-term. It's an encouraging sign that the CWI is finally showing some seriousness to try and revive the sport that's been on life-support for a while. But it's an extremely complicated recovery process, and how they are going to conduct it remains to be seen as it requires plenty of patience and will. It's a must though else West Indies cricket could be permanently lost.

Anisimova wears China crown

BEIJING, AFP: Amanda Anisimova beat Linda Noskova 6-0, 2-6, 6-2 on Sunday to win the China Open for her second title of a breakthrough year and fourth overall.

The third-seeded American survived a second-set wobble to overpower the Czech 26th seed in one hour and 46 minutes in Beijing.

She lifted the trophy in the Chinese capital almost exactly one month after reaching the US Open final, where she lost to world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka.

Anisimova is the third American to win the China Open after Coco Gauff and Serena Williams.

Amanda Anisimova

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